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Israeli jets raid South Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli fighter jets attacked suspected guerrilla targets in South Lebanon on Sunday hours after guerrillas wounded three Israeli soldiers in an attack, Lebanese security sources said. They said the planes fired at least three rockets into Jabal Safi in Iqlim Al Toufah highlands used by pro-Iranian Hizbollah (party of God) guerrillas to attack Israeli forces occupying a border zone to the south. There was no immediate report of casualties in the air raid, the first on Lebanon in more than a month. The air raid came hours after three Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, by anti-tank fire from Hizbollah guerrillas in the South Lebanon zone.

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King receives troika delegation, urges mobilisation of efforts to achieve comprehensive, lasting peace

Crown Prince says proposed OCME not alliance but forum for cooperation

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday praised the European role in the Middle East peace process and stressed the need for mobilising all efforts to bring about just, lasting and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace.

King Hussein was speaking during a meeting at the Royal Court with a delegation from the European troika led by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the peace process.

The troika delegation stressed that the European Union (EU) will pursue efforts in support of the peace process, adding that Europe will provide assistance to

boost the economy of the countries in the region as a contribution towards achieving prosperity and stability.

Prince Hassan also met with the troika team which later left for Gaza and presented to them Jordan's comprehensive concept of the nature of relations with the EU in the coming stage, including the future partnership which is expected to be achieved before the end of the year.

Prince Hassan explained the different sides of economic development in Jordan aimed at achieving the targets of the economic reform programme. He also urged the Europeans to provide financing to Jordan's social and productive programmes, which include the development of education, health, infrastructure and technology.

The Crown Prince stressed the importance of opening EU markets to Jordan's agricultur-

al and light industrial exports.

Prince Hassan, who has proposed the establishment of an organisation for cooperation in the Middle East (OCME), a proposal which was endorsed by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, said the OCME would not be an

alliance against any party or a replacement for the Arab League.

He said the organisation would be a roundtable for discussion and a forum for dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. Spring said in a statement upon arriving in Amman from Damascus that the EU is concerned over the current difficulties facing the peace process, recalling that the EU has assigned a special envoy to the region to follow up on all outstanding issues.

He said that the troika team had held several meetings with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with the purpose of

giving impetus to the peace process and to help in the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron.

The troika team groups Dutch Foreign Minister Van Mierlo, the Italian Foreign Minister's political affairs chief Amedeo de Francis and the Vice President of the European Commission Manuel Marín.

In Gaza, the troika team was received immediately by Mr. Arafat. This was the first time the troika, comprising the present, past and future chairmen of the EU, had visited a Palestinian autonomous area without also visiting Israel and meeting Israeli officials.

Mr. Spring had said they would not go to Jerusalem, after Israel opposed their plans to visit Orient House, the Palestine Liberation

Organisation headquarters in the eastern sector of the city.

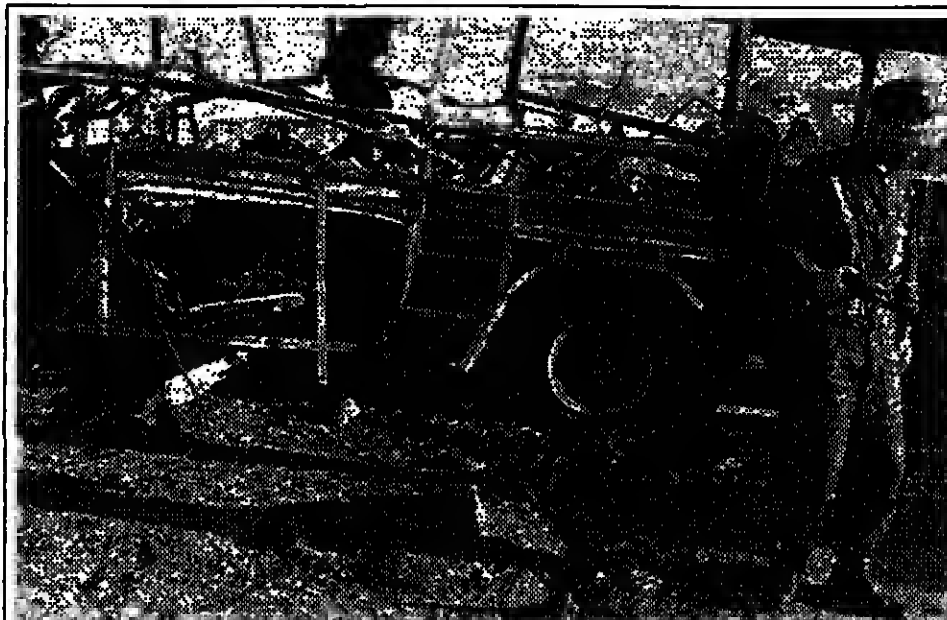
They said that under such conditions, they would rather not meet Israeli officials.

The troika flew from Amman to Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, then travelled by car to Gaza City.

Mr. Spring said Sunday in Damascus that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "favours a European role in the peace process and the naming of a special European envoy to the Middle East in addition to the role played by" the U.S., sponsor of the Middle East peace talks.

Israel and the United States oppose such a European role, but Arab countries have welcomed it. The EU last month appointed Spain's ambassador to Israel, Miguel Angel Moratinos, as its special envoy to the Middle East.

(Continued on page 7)



Algerian policemen and firemen inspect in Algiers the wreckage of a bus after a bomb blast that killed 10 people and injured more than 20 on Sunday. The bomb ripped apart a passing bus in the Algerian capital, security forces said. It was the latest upsurge of violence ahead of a referendum which would ban parties based on religion. The blast, in the south Algiers suburb of Birkhadem, tore the coach apart taking workers to their jobs at 7.30 a.m. Security forces, in a statement on the official news agency APS, gave no further details, other than to blame a "criminal action", an official Algerian term for Islamist rebels who for five years have sought to topple the authorities (AFP photo)

King, Arafat discuss Palestinian-Israeli talks

Kabariti reiterates support for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a telephone call from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who discussed with the King the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the Palestinian leadership's stand on the various proposals put forth by the Israeli government for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accords.

King Hussein reiterated Jordan's support for efforts aimed at overcoming obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreements.

The King stressed the need for denying the

extremists the chance to exploit the current circumstances to achieve their objectives.

King Hussein briefed Mr. Arafat on the outcome of contacts he has had with leaders of different countries aimed at giving impetus to the peace process.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday that Jordan's support for the Palestinian people to enable them to build their national institutions and regain their rights and establish their independent state on their national soil are among the country's priorities.

Speaking during a meeting in his office with the director of the political

department at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Farouk Kaddoumi, Mr. Kabariti called for pooling regional and international efforts to ensure the success of the peace process.

During the meeting, which took place in the presence of Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Omar Al Khanib, Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Kaddoumi exchanged views on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, focusing on talks over the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron as well as the outstanding obstacles facing the peace process.

Suharto arrives here today on visit aimed at bolstering ties

By Francesca Ciriadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Indonesian President Suharto arrives here today, Monday, for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on means of "further bolstering economic ties and commercial relations," as well as issues of mutual concern, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, announced Sunday.

According to official sources, President Suharto, who will be accompanied by private and public sector business delegations on his four-day visit, will sign a number of bilateral protocols in an official ceremony to be held at

Raghadan Palace on Tuesday morning.

The 25-member public sector and the 12-member private sector delegations will hold talks with counterparts from the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Official talks between the government and the Indonesian delegation will aim at encouraging trade between the two countries and establishing industrial joint ventures. Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammed Bani Hani told the Jordan Times. The

Jordanian side to the talks will be headed by Acting Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour.

Dr. Bani Hani said "we hope we will be able to sign three agreements: one for the protection and the encouragement of investments, one to avoid dual taxation, and, finally, one regulating maritime transportation and trade exchanges." The agreements were approved by the Cabinet Saturday.

Dr. Bani Hani said the two countries will also discuss trade relations and means of

(Continued on page 7)

Abul Ragheb meets Iraqi counterpart

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday received his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Mehdi Saleh and discussed with him ways of implementing the Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol, signed earlier this year. The two ministers agreed that the joint Jordanian-Iraqi committee will meet in the beginning of 1997.

30,000 secular Turks participate in march

ANKARA (AFP) — Tens of thousands of Turks worried by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in their country marched through the streets of Ankara on Sunday to demonstrate their support for secularism. Some 30,000 marchers paid homage to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern and secular Turkish republic, on the 58th anniversary of his death, visiting his mausoleum in the capital. "We represent the majority of the Turkish people and will never allow a Sharia rule in our country," said Suphi Gursuynak, head of the Ataturkist Thought Association, which organised the march. Many of those attending the demonstration, the largest of its kind in the Turkish capital, shouted slogans like "Turkey will stay secular until eternity." Some demonstrators openly criticised the ruling Welfare Party of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, which took up a radical stance against secularism and Ataturk's pro-Western ideals before last December's legislative elections, but later softened its attitude.

Iran plans university on disputed island

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran plans to open a university on the Gulf island of Abu Musa in a move that could heighten tension with the United Arab Emirates, which also claims sovereignty over the island. The Jomhuri Islami daily on Sunday quoted Hossein Sadeghi Shoja, head of the Payam-e-Noor University, as saying the university will open a campus on Abu Musa during celebrations in February to mark the 18th anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution. Some 2,000 Arabs and Iranians inhabit the tiny island. Opening a university campus there could be a way of luring more Iranians.

GCC warns Israel against failure to honour agreements

DOHA (Agencies) — Gulf states want Israel to abide by its agreements with the Arabs and will take unspecified measures against the Jewish state if it fails to do so, Qatar's foreign minister said Sunday.

"We hope the Israeli government will change its attitude on the peace process and respect agreements which have been signed," Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Al Thani told reporters after Gulf foreign ministers met here.

Sheikh Hamad sharply criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to grant the Palestinians a status similar to that of the European principality of Andorra or Puerto Rico.

"The GCC states rejected Netanyahu's stand on the Palestinian self-determination issue," Sheikh Hamad told reporters at the end of a two-day meeting of GCC foreign ministers in Doha.

"They reaffirmed that Palestinians should have the right to self-determination on their national soil, and not under Israeli authority," he said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has rejected a proposal by Mr. Netanyahu to grant the Palestinian territories the status of an Andorra or a Puerto Rico.

Mr. Arafat, in remarks made to Jordanian reporters in the West Bank city of Nabulus Saturday, flatly turned down Mr. Netanyahu's proposal and said it was a "violation of previous agreements."

"The Israelis must respect fully what was concluded to Madrid and Oslo and the agreements which emerged from them," Sheikh Hamad said, voicing the hope that the peace process would also continue on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council countries are following the situation closely and will take adequate measures to retaliate against Israel if it reneges on its commitments," the Qatari minister said.

The GCC — made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — failed to release its usual statement following the meeting which was boycotted by Bahrain amid a territorial dispute with Qatar.

Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf states to have begun taking steps toward normalising relations with Israel, with each signing an agreement this year to exchange trade representative offices.

However, Qatar has suspended plans to open its trade office in Tel Aviv in protest at the hardline policies of the new government of Mr. Netanyahu.

"Qatar has not returned to the beginning in its relations with Israel but has just frozen the development of these relations," Sheikh Hamad said.

The Israeli trade office has stayed open here, and Israeli firms are attending an exhibition for police and

military equipment which opened here on Saturday. "Qatar has not cancelled its agreements with Israel because our choice is peace and normalisation. It's Israel which has failed to live up to its commitments," he said.

Sheikh Hamad said he "still hoped that our brothers in Bahrain would attend" the GCC summit scheduled here for Dec. 7-9 and drop plans to boycott the meeting.

Qatar "is not opposed to Bahrain raising any subject" during the summit and GCC Secretary General Jamil Al Hujailan would visit Bahrain soon in a bid to mediate, the Qatari minister said.

But Sheikh Hamad said Qatar did not plan to withdraw its case from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague concerning the dispute over the Hawar Islands. Bahrain has asked it to withdraw the case and accept Saudi mediation.

Sheikh Hamad repeated the GCC stand that Iraq must apply all U.N. resolutions adopted since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

He added that Gulf states "support and encourage the application of the oil-for-food deal" allowing Baghdad to resume limited oil exports in return for food and medicine.

The GCC foreign ministers were meeting here to try to set an agenda for the summit next month in Doha.

Mubarak: Israel must adhere to commitments

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak Sunday made a thinly-veiled call on Israel to adhere to its commitments, saying a Middle East peace settlement was the key to prosperity in the area.

Addressing a new session of parliament, Mr. Mubarak said: "Egypt was the first in the peace process and will continue its clear position to call for a comprehensive and just peace which ensures equality for all the people in the region."

Peace will provide security for everyone and will not be held up by those who are trying to destroy it, Mr. Mubarak said.

"We call on everyone to adhere to their choice of peace as a strategic goal like us and that they do so practically by being committed to all agreements reached..." he said.

President Mubarak was apparently referring to Israel's repeated delay of its troop redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron as provided for under the 1993 peace accords between the Jewish state and to Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Meanwhile an Israeli Arab has gone missing in Cairo, his brother and Israeli embassy officials said Sunday.

Azam Azam, 35, a mechanic at the Egyptian-Israeli textile factory Tetra, was grabbed by unidentified men on Wednesday night outside his Cairo hotel, his brother, Wafa, told the Associated Press.

Jordan sceptical Cairo summit will achieve economic breakthroughs

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, to open in Cairo on Tuesday, is an opportunity for the region's countries to present their projects to potential investors, Jordan is sceptical that breakthroughs in the way of major ventures would materialise during the summit in the absence of comprehensive peace in the region. Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb said Sunday.

"Notwithstanding all the positive aspects of any such economic gatherings that give both the private and public sectors from

different countries the opportunity to meet and discuss business, the main ingredient for prosperity in the region remains to be missing," he said.

"The absence of just and comprehensive peace in the region will have its negative impact during the Cairo summit," Mr. Abul Ragheb, who is heading the Jordanian delegation to the summit, told the Jordan Times on the eve of the departure to Cairo.

Reflecting a more sombre attitude towards MENA than that of the over-enthusiastic rhetoric that prevailed prior to last year's MENA conference in Amman, Jordanian officials say that expectations this time around

are not too high because of political setbacks in the peace process.

"Stability and peace are prerequisites for development and prosperity. Until they become established facts on the ground, investors will continue to be wary of major contribution to what is often termed as peace promoting ventures," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

Barriers in the way of promoting business and trade exchange will crop up in Cairo, the minister said. Most important of these, he said, are the issues of Israel in Palestine as well as strict procedures for crossings between Israel and both Jordan and Egypt.

This Israeli attitude will reflect negatively on the summit as the lack of political progress will discourage investors, said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Other officials agreed that it would be difficult to market projects as the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal and other projects aimed at promoting joint tourism packages in Israel, Jordan and Egypt under the current political circumstances which are mired by tension and uncertainty.

While in Amman and Casablanca's MENA summits have been joint projects between Jordan, the Palestinians and Egypt were valued at tens of millions of dollars, at the Cairo conference this year, Jordan will

present small-scale joint projects mainly to deal with crossings improvement and tourism development with Israel.

But officials and businessmen alike agree that the Cairo summit will be beneficial in that businessmen will be able to confront officials with the obstacles in laws and regulations that make investment a rather difficult task for entrepreneurs.

"It is known that in the Middle East many productive measures in areas of laws and regulations have yet to be adopted for enhancing investment opportunities, and Cairo would be a good venue for discussing such issues with the private sector," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

During the Cairo summit, in which Jordan will be officially represented by Mr. Abul Ragheb, Telecommunications Minister Jamal Sarafieh, Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and Finance Minister Marwan Awad, Jordan will present a number of energy, industry and mining, telecommunications, transport, tourism and water projects.

About 88 countries will participate in the Cairo conference expected to be attended by over 3,000 delegates.

The summit will be opened by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Israel, Syria move closer to resuming peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and Syria have both signalled in recent days that they may resume their peace talks in January, nearly a year after they were frozen, despite a recent spate of violence in South Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday he is confident that peace negotiations with Syria may start again in January or even earlier.

And Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Sharaa voiced optimism in Paris that the United States, the talks on ice since February could resume early next year.

"It is an interesting statement. I was very happy to

hear what the (Syrian) foreign minister said," Mr. Netanyahu said Saturday in response to Sharaa's remarks.

"I'm confident that we can restore the Israeli-Syrian peace talks soon, perhaps in January or even before," he said.

Syria on Saturday welcomed the reelection of U.S. President Bill Clinton and said it expected him to revive the faltering Middle East peace process during his second term.

Mr. Clinton, in response to a congratulatory message from Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, said Friday that achieving a "just and comprehensive" peace in the Middle East would be one of the White House's "top pri-

orities."

The U.S. president added that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Assad in eliminating the threat of war in the region and achieving peace between Israel and Syria.

The official Syrian press said Mr. Clinton, now "released from electoral constraints, could make crucial decisions in favor of peace and stability" in the region. U.S. presidents cannot serve more than two terms.

Damascus is demanding the return of the Golan Heights as a condition for any peace treaty with Israel, which captured the strategic plateau in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and annexed it 14

years later.

Mr. Netanyahu has ruled out a land-for-peace settlement with Syria, unlike the previous labour-led government which had hinted some kind of pullback on the strategic heights might be negotiated.

But since the end of October, Israel has been striking a more conciliatory tone.

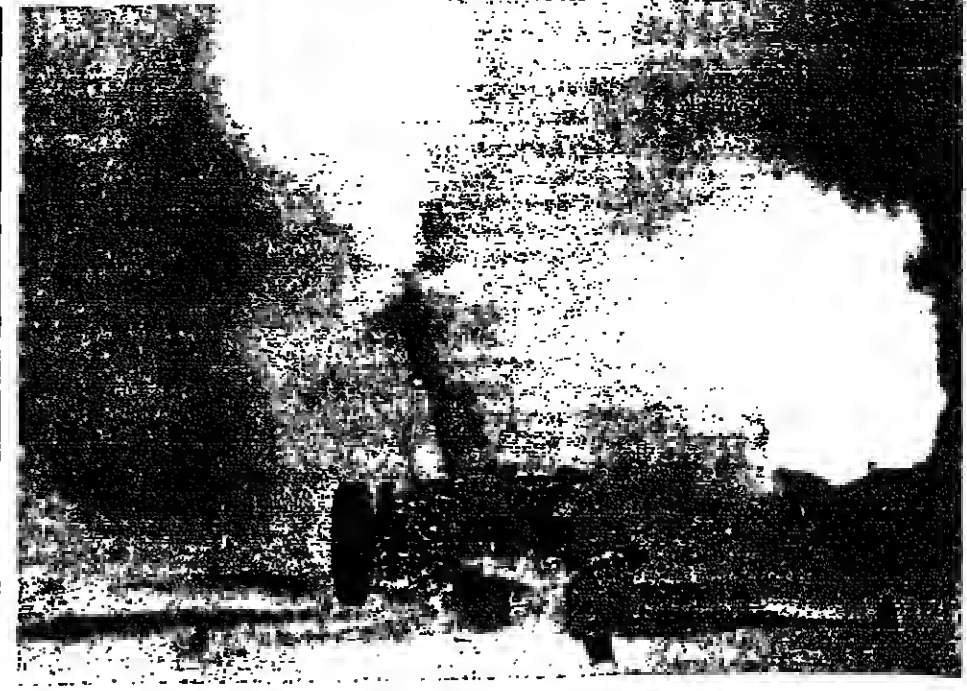
Foreign Minister David Levy, who visited Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last week, said the tension with Syria has declined. He also proposed secret contacts with Syria on re-starting negotiations.

The Israeli government has come out against a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in principle.

"No official in our government ever said that we would not give up a centimetre of this territory," he said.

Easing tension on the diplomatic front, however, has not prevented a resurgence in violence in south Lebanon between the Shiite Hizbollah militia and Israeli forces in the "security zone" the Jewish state occupies.

Israel says the militia receives support from Syria. Damascus, which has about 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, is the main power-broker there.



An Afghan Islamic Taleban fighter fires a 122mm Howitzer towards positions held by the northern alliance, 25 kilometres north of the Afghan capital Sunday (Reuters photo)

Rival Afghan factions in heated battle north of Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Taleban Islamic militia gunners on Sunday pounded the frontlines north of Kabul after rival faction infantry forces attempted an early-morning offensive, an AFP reporter said.

"The enemy attacked us soon after morning prayers, but we have pushed them back," a Taleban gunner told AFP. "Their casualties are still in the field."

The gunners said the coalition forces of the ex-Kabul government and the northern ethnic Uzbek warlord, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, attacked in three places — from two directions on the so-called Old Road and from the New Road.

The Old Road, the closest frontline where the most intense fighting took place, exits Kabul north-bound parallel to the New Road.

The anti-Taleban alliance infantry launched their attempt to dislodge the fundamentalist militia from the Old Road frontlines

about 20 kilometres north of Kabul, and also from hills behind the frontlines.

Coalition rival forces from Bagram airbase 50 kilometres north of Kabul simultaneously attacked the Taleban on the New Road in an attempt to scale a mountain ridge which cuts across the highway.

"The fighting was very intense and all the artillery on both sides was involved," a New Road gunner reported.

Journalists witnessed three 122mm BM-21 multi-barrel launchers reloaded with 40 long-range rockets after their magazines were depleted from firing salvos at the attackers.

The New Road gunners of both rocket launchers and D-30 Howitzers were seen shelling the Old Road to support fellow Taleban there.

After some six hours the action had diminished, but New Road Taleban gunners were still chasing targets on the Old Road.

"We are shooting at a

convoy moving up the main road near Serai Khoja," said a BM-21 gunner.

Meanwhile, a total of 29 Taleban militia corps have now been transferred to Kabul from the battlefields north of the capital, a Red Cross spokesman said Sunday.

"Fifteen more bodies were brought to Kabul today from the Charikar area," said Joerg Stoecklin, press officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Stoecklin said the first delivery of dead Taleban was made on Sunday when 14 militiamen were handed over to the officials of the Kabul military hospital in the presence of the acting Minister of Public Health Mullah Masum Afghani.

"This first transfer is a result of negotiations held at the ICRC initiative, between belligerent parties," a Red Cross press release read.

Representatives from around 30 countries from East Africa, Islands in the Indian Ocean and Central Asia as well as such countries as Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka and Australia are attending the three-day conference.

At a meeting with the participants, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also called for the creation of a "powerful body to develop cooperation and maintain security in the strategic Indian Ocean."

He argued such a structure could contribute to the establishment of peace and security in the region.

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Lebanon, Syria boycott summit to deprive Israel of economic gains

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon and Syria are boycotting the Middle East economic conference in Cairo as part of a policy aimed at denying Israel economic gains before the establishment of a comprehensive peace.

Lebanese economic sources however fear that such "marginalisation could make us lose important investment opportunities and trade exchanges."

For both Lebanon and Syria, economic normalisation can only follow a complete settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Or else the Arabs would be giving everything without gaining anything," said a senior Syrian official who asked to remain anonymous.

The source told AFP that the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process "proved that we made the right decision, as we refuse to reward Israel before it withdraws from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and South Lebanon."

Syria is demanding the return of the Golan, a strategic plateau seized by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981, as the cornerstone of any peace

deal with the Jewish state.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Boust said "as long as the political track at the peace process is in a deadlock, or even in a regression stage, it is pointless trying to make any progress in the economic field."

"How can Lebanon think about economic cooperation with a country (Israel) which continues daily to bombard its southern territories and with whom it is nearly in a state of war?" he told AFP.

Lebanon and Syria are the only two Arab countries boycotting the November 12-14 conference aimed at promoting regional economic development, and neither country attended the previous conferences held in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and Amman in 1995.

Beirut and Damascus said they will not attend the summit because it falls within the scope of the multilateral peace negotiations boycotted by both countries pending tangible progress at their bilateral talks with Israel.

Arab-Israeli peace talks are currently in a rut, with the Syrian and Lebanese tracks frozen

since February and relations between Israel and the Palestinians at a low following September's wave of violence.

The Syrian official said "what further asserts our position is that not only Syrians and Lebanese are boycotting, but also Palestinians, Egyptians and even Israeli ministers."

A Lebanese economic source said "we will not lose much by boycotting the summit because in any case the previous conferences did not witness any concrete projects or solid joint ventures or massive investments. It all remained ink on paper."

"In any case, projects concerning regional developments cannot exclude or ignore any country in the region and our place and role are guaranteed in any future plans for the Middle East," the source said.

He said Lebanon has already drawn a "global vision and a mechanism for its reconstruction process, whether it be with international agencies, like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with regional bodies, like the Arab League and the European Union, or with bilateral accords."

Tehran rejects U.N. report on alleged human rights violations

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Sunday rejected a U.N. report on alleged human rights violations in Iran, charging it was politically motivated and of "no value."

"Unfortunately the issue of human rights is used by the West as a political tool. It is because we insist on our Islamic and its dependent stand," Mr. Velayati told reporters on the sidelines of a conference here on the Indian Ocean Community.

"The West wants us to base our human rights values on their laws, but we believe we should take into account our religious and cultural principles," he added. "This report has no value from our point of view."

The U.N. report released Friday said human rights violations in Iran appeared to have increased since last March. It cited the banning of several newspapers, attacks against mosques, and the break-up of private meetings as evidence that the social climate in Iran "is becoming less tolerant."

Some of these acts "are being carried out by agencies of the government while others are carried out by non-governmental groups but with government forces refusing to intervene," it said.

It added that "the punishment regime in Iran would seem to have been significantly toughened," charging that Iran executed at least 66 people between January 1 and August 31 this year, up from 50 during 1995.

Iran often criticised for its alleged violation of human rights, invited U.N. envoys last year to inspect the human rights situation here after denying such visits for nearly four years.

U.N. rapporteur Maurice Copithorne travelled here in January in the first such visit since 1991, when his predecessor, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl was declared persona non grata after reaching what Iran considered biased conclusions.

Mr. Velayati compared the latest U.N. report with that of Galindo Pohl, saying it was prepared "under Western pressure and influence."

During the conference on Indian Ocean Community, Mr. Velayati called on Sunday for the creation of an international organisation to promote cooperation among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

"The existing conditions,

notably since the collapse of the Soviet Union, require such a body to be set up," Mr. Velayati said in the opening speech of the conference.

Such an organisation "could promote commercial and political exchange between countries bordering or close to the Indian Ocean," he said.

"From South Africa to the Pacific, these countries need a structure within which to develop" their links, the minister added, also calling for greater cooperation among existing organisations in Asia.

He argued such a structure could contribute to the establishment of peace and security in the region.

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At a meeting with the participants, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also called for the creation of a "powerful body to develop cooperation and maintain security in the strategic Indian Ocean."

He argued such a structure could contribute to the establishment of peace and security in the region.

Representatives from around 30 countries from East Africa, Islands in the Indian Ocean and Central Asia as well as such countries as Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka and Australia are attending the three-day conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel eases closure on self-rule areas

GAZA (R) — Thousands of Palestinian workers returned to their jobs in Israel on Sunday when the Jewish state eased a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian Brigadier-General Saeb al-Ajza, security commander in the northern Gaza Strip, said that of the 15,000 Gaza Strip workers allowed to work in Israel, 8,000 left at dawn to return to jobs in the Jewish state. He said that before last month's total closure, about 20,300 Palestinian workers from the West Bank had been given permits to work in Israel. But it was difficult to know how many had entered Israel after the closure, was eased, Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in 1994 after the arrival of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to self-rule areas. This closure was never lifted entirely but eased intermittently.

Turkish MPs to discuss alleged state-mafia links

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's parliament is set to debate alleged ties between the state and organised crime after a fatal accident linked a top security official and a gangster, state-run Anatolian news agency said on Sunday. A vote on whether to begin a parliamentary investigation will be held after Tuesday's speeches by the government and political parties, Anatolian said. The scandal unfolded after a mobster wanted for drug dealing and political killings died in the same car as a police chief and a former beauty queen in a traffic accident last weekend. Interior Minister Mehmet Agar resigned in the wake of the scandal, saying he wished to clear the way for a parliamentary investigation. Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his deputy Tansu Ciller both denied any connection between the two matters.

Blast kills two during circumcision

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A man and a woman were killed and 42 wounded, some seriously, by an unexplained blast during a circumcision ceremony in the Ormdurman district of the Sudanese capital. An official of the attorney general's office told the independent Akhbar Al Youm daily on Sunday that an "unidentified object" exploded during the ceremony Friday night. An investigation has already started, the official added. The official said the district where the incident happened is a slum town without electricity.

Qatar, France sign security accord

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar and France on Sunday signed an agreement on security cooperation, the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) said. Qatar's Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani and French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré signed the accord on boosting cooperation in "different areas of security," QNA said. The two also discussed "cooperation between the two countries and how to develop it," before they signed the memorandum of understanding on security, the news agency said.

British warship rescues Pakistani crew

BRITAIN (AFP) — A helicopter from a royal navy warship, the HMS Edinburgh, rescued all nine Pakistani crewmen from a sinking fishing ship during a night rescue in the Gulf. The British embassy said Sunday. The Lynx helicopter flew to the stricken ship and with the crewmen after responding to a distress call from the traditional sailing dhow, whose pumps failed later it began taking on water, the embassy said in a statement. It said the crewmen, including one who required "minor medical" care, were later taken to the United Arab Emirates. The ship was carrying 14 crew and 100 tons of fish, the M/V M/V S. S. S. S.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Muppet Show

14:30 Comedy — Dad's Army

15:00 Varieties — L'Intégrale

15:30 Doc. — Travelling

Gourmet

16:00 Nature's Inventions

16:30 Comedy — Hey Dad!

17:00 News Flash

17:30 Comedy — Destiny Ridge

18:00 Magazine — Cassiopee

19:00 The Journal

19:15 Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Rosanne

20:00 Documentary — Disaster

Chronicle

20:30 Cinema, Cinema

21:10 The Lazarus Man

22:00 News in English

22:25 Mini-Series — Final

Justice

23:15 Bodies of Evidence

23:59 Game Show — Fort

Boyard (transmitted on the first channel)

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr

05:56 (Sunrise) Duha

11:19 Dhuhur

14:18 'Asr

16:43 Maghreb

18:03 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swefieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440

De la Sante Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622566

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771351

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

684932

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691

The Evangelical Local Church

In Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the

Department of Meteorology.

Warm and sunny weather con-

ditions will prevail with tem-

peratures slightly higher than

average and winds southeaster-

ly moderate to active. In

Aqaba, winds will be northerly

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 08/23

Amman 15/30

Aqaba 06/25

Deserts 06/25

Jordan Valley 17/30

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 34, Aqaba 30 Humid-

ity readings: Amman 30 per

cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi 894788

Dr. Bassam Karadshah 759200

Dr. Khalid Abdo 657129

Dr. Selman Al Dabshi

..... 776751

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yaoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairookh pharmacy

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Tarabneh 29789

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Queen, Saudi Prince Talal tour child welfare facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Chairman of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), HRH Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud Sunday met with the members of the National Task Force for Children (NTFC) at Al Ma'wa Palace, where the Prince was briefed on the NTFC's strategy and current activities, a Royal Court statement said.

The NTFC, which is chaired by Queen Noor, will monitor the condition and status of children in accordance with the Arab and International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Plan of Action for Children, the statement said.

It will coordinate, collaborate with and bring together existing institutions working in the field of child welfare through the establishment of the National Coalition for Children (NCC).

In the discussions, Prince Talal commended the NTFC's structure and orientation as an advocacy group representing all sectors of society, "be they governmental, non-governmental, private and individuals" working in the field of child welfare, the statement said.

He expressed his hope that the ACCD's specialised Documentation and Information Centre, which publishes research on the state of children and child-related issues in Arab countries, would work in cooperation with the NTFC's Research and Database Centre for Children.

Later, Prince Talal visited the Institute for Child Health and Development (ICHD), where he met with mothers and children using the facilities of the institute's Mother and Child Health clinic and its child development unit.

The unit provides development assessment and supervision of minor and moderate disabilities through play therapy, and designs programmes to improve the monitoring of physical health, psychological and social needs of children under the age of six.

The Prince said that "the centre's early detection, intervention and therapy are critical as they promote faster healing and can prevent a disability from turning into a serious physical, sensory or mental handicap."

He particularly emphasised the importance of the role of the ICHD,



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Prince Ra'ad Ben Zaid Sunday meet with Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz to discuss pan-Arab affairs and bilateral relations (Petra photo)

Prince Talal praises bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Saudi Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud Sunday met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

He later informed Jordan Television that discussions covered pan-Arab affairs and Jordanian-Saudi Arabian relations. Prince Talal, who is chairman of the Arab Council of Childhood and Development (ACCD), described relations as "good with cooperation progressing" and further stated that "we are determined to carry on with our humanitarian projects to aid Jordanian, Saudi Arabian and other children in the region."

"The ACCD has carried out numerous projects in Jordan and financed projects, carried out under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Basma," he added.

The ACCD, he added, is determined to continue financing child-related projects in the Kingdom.

Prince Talal said that his meeting with the prime minister was held in a friendly atmosphere and that he was delighted to see Jordanian-Saudi Arabian relations

and bilateral cooperation in different fields progressing.

He explained that the ACCD has implemented projects in the Kingdom and that Jordanian officials have stated their appreciation for the council's financial help, especially that related to child and maternal care.

Mr. Kabariti expressed Jordan's appreciation of the ACCD's continued assistance.

Prince Talal arrived in Amman Saturday on a two-day working trip at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, toured the Jubilee School and attended a briefing on the school's progress.

He is slated to visit the National Task Force for Children and the Institute for Child Health and Development.

The ACCD was established by Prince Talal in 1987 to coordinate efforts and organisations working to benefit children in the Arab region.

The organisation offers financial assistance for non-governmental organisations and national institutions working in the field of child welfare.

which is the first and only facility to monitor and assess child growth and development, in conducting primary field research among children, and providing information to parents and teachers to increase awareness of early signs of childhood diseases and disabilities, the statement said.

According to the Royal Court, Prince Talal also listened to a presentation on the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's philosophy and its programmes for children, including the annual Arab Children's Congress, which increases children's awareness on contemporary regional and global challenges fac-

ing the Arab World as well as the use of drama in education to promote self-learning, freedom of expression, teamwork, creative and analytical thinking as well as problem solving and decision-making.

He noted that Arab children are in dire need of "educational programmes, such as these, which stimulate their thinking and develop their imagination."

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and other members of the Royal family were hosted by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath at a luncheon held in honour

of Prince Talal on Sunday.

At the end of his two-day trip to Jordan, Prince Talal, who also is the president of the Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND), said that his visit will help him widen AGFUND's base of beneficiaries in the country, adding that the fund has extended financial aid to 24 U.N. development projects in Jordan as well as six Jordanian non-governmental organisations at a cost of over \$11 million.

Prince Talal was seen off by Royal Court Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zaid, members of the Royal family and several ministers.

Jordan, U.S. sign 'open skies' pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the United States Sunday signed a civil aviation agreement permitting Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines to land at any desired destination within the U.S. according to a statement from the Ministry of Transport.

It is the first accord of its kind with a Middle Eastern country as well as the first signed by the U.S. with a non-European airline, the statement said.

The ministry further explained that the so-called "open skies" agreement provides complete liberalisation of international air ser-

vices between Jordan and the United States, allowing any carrier from either country to fly from any point in one country through to any intermediate point in the other and beyond.

Under an "open skies" accord, the number of flights, pricing and routing will be unrestricted, thereby giving airlines of both countries complete operational flexibility, the statement said.

The two sides reached an initial agreement on the accord last September, according to an RJ official who told the Jordan Times

that the agreement allows both countries' planes to fly within each other's air space without obtaining prior approval from national civil aviation authorities.

He said that the agreement, which is slated to take effect in 1997, was signed by Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan.

Several U.S. airlines have already formulated plans to serve Jordan via "code-sharing arrangements" with European and Jordanian partners to increase market competition, the statement said.

It also stated that benefit to Jordan will be increased through business activity and access to the American market, including tourism and foreign investment, as Americans and others take advantage of increased travel opportunities to the Kingdom.

Mr. Lawzi said that the agreement was negotiated over the past several months and allows RJ planes to fly over any European country which has concluded a like agreement with the United States.

Princess opens JNFW headquarters in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Sunday formally inaugurated the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) headquarters in Irbid and expressed her delight at the occasion, noting that this is the sixth office of its kind to be opened in Jordan.

The Princess said she was extremely pleased with the achievements of the Jordanian women's movement which, she said, is continually invested in promoting the socio-economic role of women.

She expressed optimism that the new quarters would serve as additional support for the national women's movement and in contributing to development efforts.

Princess Basma voiced her appreciation for local women's union work in the Irbid Governorate saying that through concerted work they can confront and deal with challenges.

The Princess avowed her pride in being part of the Jor-

danian women's movement which aims at contributing to national progress through various programmes in the social and economic fields.

At the ceremony, Irbid Governor Qattan Majali addressed the audience outlining women's group achievements in the Irbid Governorate noting that women were serving their nation in social, educational, agricultural and economic arenas.

Princess Basma later took part in a political workshop, organised by Yarmouk University, which focused on mobilising women and promoting their role in society.

The participants requested that women's vocational training continue and expand in order to provide women with necessary skills to improve their social status and to help provide income for families.

In the past months Princess Basma opened JNFW offices in Karak, Ghor Safi, Mafraq, Naour and Sahab.

Chinese MP meets with Kabariti

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Chinese Parliament Speaker Chao Chi Sunday emphasised his country's determination to support peace efforts and stated that China will do its utmost to help the region enjoy a durable and just settlement based on the exchange of land for peace.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Mr. Chi asserted his country's enthusiasm in promoting ties with Jordan, saying the two sides can unite in dealing with challenges and cooperate in social and economic developments.

Mr. Kabariti expressed Jordan's appreciation for China's international role in promoting the cause of peace and security and said that Jordan hopes that China will continue on its path and strengthen cooperation with Jordan in parliamentary, economic and political arenas.

Earlier Sunday, Mr. Chi met with Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and discussed bilateral ties.

The Chinese speaker said that China and Jordan hold similar views about the need for developing economic cooperation and for adjusting the trade balance, currently favouring China.

He avowed support for officials and parliamentarians of both countries to exchange visits and maintain regular meetings and extended an invitation to Mr. Lawzi to visit China.

Mr. Lawzi briefed the Chinese official on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the Jordanian position therein.

He also urged China to play a stronger role in helping the region achieve peace and security.

Before the meeting with Mr. Lawzi, Mr. Chi held a meeting with Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and discussed the Middle East and other issues of common concern.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday meets with visiting Chinese Parliament Speaker Chao Chi to discuss social, economic and trade issues (Petra photo)

What's Going On

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

• "The Rainbow Children" (comedy) at the University of Jordan, Samir Rifa'i Auditorium, at 5:30 p.m.

CONCERT

• Performance by the concert band of the National Music Conservatory at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

• "Les Granges Brûlées" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Nov. 21.

• Photopanel and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.

• Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.

• Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Fuaun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nasrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.

• Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain thanks Jordan for help

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi Sunday received Bahraini Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Seif. Mr. Seif expressed his country's appreciation for the medical care Jordan offered to Bahraini citizens who were injured in last month's road accident on Azraq road.

Economic delegation to travel to expo

AMMAN (Petra) — Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Haidar Issa Murad will head a 90-member economic delegation next Saturday to visit the Saudi Industrial Exposition in Jeddah. Mr. Murad stated that the delegation will hold talks with their Saudi counterparts to further boost economic relations and increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

Jordan, Yemen discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Judicial Institute of Jordan Director Mustafa Assaf Sunday met with the Yemeni Ministry of Justice undersecretary to review cooperation between Jordan and Yemen in judiciary fields. Dr. Assaf is currently on a five-day visit to Yemen to bolster relations between the Jordanian institute and the Yemeni Higher Judiciary Institute to activate an agreement concluded between the two institutes. Under this agreement, periodic meetings will be convened between the two institutes to review their activities.

AIR FRANCE

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|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| AMMAN | 23h55 | 23h55 | 23h55 |
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| AF 8172 | Monday | Wednesday | Saturday |
| PARIS | 13h30 | 13h30 | 13h30 |
| AMMAN | 21h00 | 21h00 | 21h00 |

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Tens of thousands of South Korean workers stage a rally calling for a revision of restrictive labour laws and threaten all-out industrial action unless their demands are met Sunday. About 50,000 workers, many of them members of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, staged the rally on a vast concrete plaza near the National Assembly building (Reuters photo)

S. Korea unions demand sweeping labour reform

SEOUL (AFP) — Some 20,000 militant union activists called for sweeping labour reforms as South Korean economic and trade officials held an urgent Sunday session to avert a possible labour crisis.

"Labour liberation," read a slogan on red banners hung around the podium near the parliament compound where thousands of riot police were on standby to prevent possible violence.

The activists from the militant Federation of Democratic Trade Unions waved flags and punched their fists into the air, urging the government to change South Korea's tough labour laws or face a general strike.

In a resolution, the federation, which claims 390,000 members or 20 per cent of the nation's unionised workforce, threatened to stage a "general strike," coupled with an anti-government campaign, unless their demands were met.

"Conglomerates are struggling to destroy us in collusion with government conservatives," said the resolution, which followed an emergency meeting of economic ministers and ruling party leaders.

The labour rally came after six months of negotiations between unions and employers bogged down last week, leaving the government of President Kim Young-Sam in a dilemma.

"Time is running short. So, the government decided to push ahead with its own labour reform bill," Labour Minister Jin Nyum said.

The minister stressed a new labour law should be legislated before the end of December under a timetable following its entry into the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The club of advanced economies endorsed South Korea as its 29th member last month, but ratification in parliament here has been delayed. Opposition parties have charged Seoul's OECD bid as a political tactic ahead of next year's presidential poll.

South Korea is already under strong pressure from OECD members to introduce new labour standards conforming with international norms.

But conglomerates, which now face considerable challenges from high costs at home and competition abroad, have urged the government to delay labour reforms.

The revision to South Korea's excessively restrictive labour law has been a major election pledge by President Kim, a former dissident who took office in early 1995.

In April, Mr. Kim promised a sweeping change in labour regulations to clear the way for South Korea's entry into the OECD.

A special presidential commission was formed to work out a compromise bill, but its work has hit snags because of bitter wrangling over sensitive issues.

Labour leaders insisted the government should allow unions to engage in political activities, set up multiple trade unions at a single firm and permit third party intervention in labour disputes.

But employers argued they should be empowered to hire and fire workers without interference by unions, calling the union's demands excessive.

South Korea's major conglomerates also stood together this year with what labour leaders called anti-union measures such as wage freezes and cuts in manpower.

India cyclone death toll may pass 2,000, local reports say

EAST GODAVARI, India (R) — A brutal cyclone that struck the southeastern coast of India may have killed more than 2,000 people, twice as many as previously thought, local reports said Sunday.

The Asian Age newspaper reported that more than 2,000 inhabitants of fishing villages were feared to have died in the devastating winds, rain and tidal waves that lashed the coast four days ago.

A statement issued on Sunday by V. Veera Raju, president of a Local Fishermen's Organisation, also said 2,000 men and 150 boats were missing.

The centre of the disaster was the village of Balusutippa in Andhra Pradesh state from where

1,000 men had set sail Wednesday, ignoring cyclone warnings.

Local journalists reported that police had confirmed 476 deaths in and around Balusutippa, a village of 10,000 people in the area of the Godavari River delta.

They said decomposed bodies were being cremated on the shore after identification in order to conform with customs not to bring the dead into the village.

An official at the relief centre to the state capital Hyderabad said there would be no update in the official tally until bodies had been identified and registered.

The exact toll may never be known.

One Balusutippa man gave a chilling account of how he saw the rest of his family

perish. "When our tents were blown away we ran towards a tall tree," Dantupalli Suresh Babu said.

"I turned my dhoti (robe) into a rope and tied my family to prevent them being washed away. I climbed a tree and saved my life. But my wife, three sons and a daughter drowned."

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda flew over the flooded paddy fields and coconut groves on Sunday to assess the devastation to a region known as the rice bowl of Andhra Pradesh.

Bodies were being recovered from collapsed houses, fields, the canals that criss-cross the land, and the shoreline.

Makeshift camps were sheltering hundreds of thou-

sands of evacuees whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged.

Relief workers were still struggling to reach outlying fishing villages, marooned by flood waters, while aerial surveys showed some communities were completely submerged.

"It is unprecedented and unimaginable," State Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said in Rajahmundry.

Officials said preliminary estimates of the losses due to damage in the paddy fields, coconut groves and property at around 50.4 billion rupees (\$1.41 billion).

In 1977, a cyclone killed 10,000 people. In 1990 another 967 died and in June this year 120 lives were lost from cyclone disasters.

Police, anti-crime group clash outside Cape Town stadium

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Police sprayed teargas and scuffled with members of a militant Muslim-led anti-crime group Sunday outside a stadium where up to 60,000 of the group's supporters were expected to hold a rally.

The incident was sparked after a throng of supporters of the militant People Against Gangsterism And Drugs (PAGAD) tried to force their way into Vryheid Stadium in the Cape Town suburb of Athlone, the domestic SABA news agency said.

A week earlier, police arrested nine protesters during a weapons crackdown at a small PAGAD rally.

Meanwhile sixteen people were killed in South Africa over the weekend in three separate shootings sparked by family trouble, police said Sunday.

In the worst attack, a police trainee in the eastern Cape Town of Graaff Reinet killed six people Saturday — his wife, his in-laws, two of their grandchildren and his sister-in-law — before setting fire to their home and shooting himself. A third grandchild died in the fire.

Neighbours said the gunman was a black who had married a mixed-race woman against the wishes of his in-laws.

On Friday in the town of Alberton east of Johannesburg a former policeman shot dead his parents, a family friend and the friend's three-year-old child. The gunman was fatally wounded by police responding to a neighbour's alarm.

Earlier Friday a man shot and wounded his girlfriend in a Johannesburg night club then blazed away at other patrons, killing three of them.

attacks on Cape Town homes have been attributed by witnesses to either PAGAD or gangsters, although police have not confirmed any links to the ongoing feud.

On Nov. 3, a protester was shot dead and several restaurants and shops were badly damaged during a clash involving police and about 500 PAGAD supporters.

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Earlier Friday a man shot and wounded his girlfriend in a Johannesburg night club then blazed away at other patrons, killing three of them.

Ten suspected militants gunned down in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP) — Thirteen people, including 10 suspected separatists, were gunned down in the northern Indian state of Kashmir in separate incidents, a local news agency reported Sunday.

The killings came as Kashmir's democratically elected government tried to end seven years of Muslim insurgency that has left more than 14,500 people dead so far.

Three civilians, including a young boy, were killed in three separate incidents. Suspected militants gunned down two of their former comrades who had given up a life of violence, United News of India news agency reported. The boy died when an explosive went off in a village. It gave no details.

Government troops searching for militants cordoned off several villages across the state in separate operations. The militants often fired at the troops, who returned the fire, it said.

No soldier was killed or injured in the incidents, it said.

The federal government dismissed the state government in 1989 when the insurgency flared. Since then, New Delhi has administered the state. This year, the government held elections to federal parliament and later to the state legislature.

Guerrillas opposed the elections as meaningless and said independence alone would solve the Kashmir problem.

The state is claimed by both India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars over the territory. The state is divided between the two nations and is separated by a United Nations-monitored ceasefire line.

Mystery shrouds King Sihanouk's departure for China

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk left Sunday for medical treatment in China under a shroud of mystery and political intrigue that has left the capital abuzz with nervous talk of instability.

The 74-year-old monarch appeared healthy and vigorous but just before he arrived at the airport, photographers were ordered not to take pictures of his departure and all the red carpets leading to the government jet were rolled up by palace aides.

The move was unusual given the king's usual strict adherence to formal rules of protocol, according to diplomats and witnesses present at the send-off.

"Perhaps he doesn't want his absence to be noticed that much," said one diplomat, noting that the king is Cambodia's most prominent symbol of unity and national reconciliation.

The king has made similar comments before, but the latest statement appeared designed to quash rumours that he, the Royalist Funcinpec Party and Khmer Rouge defectors were plotting a political alliance to undermine the former communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

In the past two weeks, the CPP, led by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, has grown extremely concerned that Funcinpec — its main partner in the current coalition government — is conspiring to rust them from the coalition by force, according to party insiders and diplomats.

Funcinpec president and First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh would not comment on the rumours but said the king's Saturday message was an attempt to ease those concerns.

It is designed "to calm somebody down, and you know who it is," the prince told reporters in an obvious reference to Hun Sen after the king had left.

The king "is saying he will be a real constitutional monarch," the prince said.

Tension between the coalition partners has been on the rise lately with each party courting Khmer Rouge guerrillas who have split with the movement's hardline central leadership and joined with the government.

The courtships, designed to achieve both a political and military edge in Cambodia's northwest ricebowl before the elections, have led to charges and countercharges of deceit and war-mongering among government officials.

Fergie seals \$1.6 million deal with Revlon — paper

LONDON (R) — Britain's disgraced Duchess of York has signed a one million pound (\$1.6 million) deal with U.S. cosmetics giant Revlon to market her own perfume, a British newspaper reported. The former Sarah Ferguson, known widely as Fergie, could eventually make six million pounds (\$10 million) from the deal and help wipe out her debts, which are said to be huge, according to the newspaper Sunday People. It was not immediately possible to contact Revlon for comment.

Former Haitian President Aristide a proud father

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the former priest who was Haiti's first freely elected president, became a father of a different sort Friday night with the birth of his first child, a baby girl. Mildred Trouillot Aristide, 34, the former president's wife of 10 months, gave birth to baby Christine at Canope-Ven Hospital in Port-Au-Prince about 10 p.m. Est (1500 GMT), hospital officials said Saturday.

Hong Kong's aids campaign goes on the game

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong prostitutes are to be given Mahjong sets, packs of cards and comic books featuring pictures of condoms in order to encourage them to practice safe sex, the Hong Kong standard reported Sunday. "From observing the women on the street as they waited for clients, we could see they enjoyed playing cards and mahjong and reading comic strips," it quoted anti-aids activist Sister Ann.

"Gray as saying as a confidence on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) here. 'We designed materials to meet the specific needs and concerns of our clients. The message of HIV prevention is constantly being relayed to the player subliminally. More than a quarter of Hong Kong prostitutes fail to make regular use of a condom, according to study by safe-sex campaigners."

Ms. Reynolds said the department followed a strategy of "speculative" reports ranging from pneumonia to AIDS.

Ms. Reynolds said the department followed a strategy of "speculative" reports ranging from pneumonia to AIDS.

Gay couple tie wedlock in 1st public ceremony in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — Two men were married Sunday in Taiwan's first public gay wedding, a ceremony welcomed by gay-rights activists and drawing shocked criticism from conservative groups. Novelist Hu Sheng exchanged wedding vows and rings with his American partner Gray Harriman, a college administrator from New York, in front of 500 guests, including Taipei Mayor Chen Shui-bian. "We've lived together for a couple of years, and this summer when I returned to Taiwan for a friend's wedding, I asked myself why couldn't I have my own," Mr. Hsu said before his wedding ceremony. Mr. Hsu met his partner three years ago in New York when he was a graduate school student. Mr. Harriman who came with Mr. Hsu to Taiwan for the first time last week said he agreed to a public ceremony because he thought Chinese people would be more tolerant of an homosexual marriage than Americans. "We haven't encountered anything negative so far. Everybody has been incredibly friendly and supportive to us. Even the (news) media has been very supportive," he said. But conservative groups in this reactionary society condemned the marriage. In an open letter to Mayor Chen late Saturday, a religious group called "Faith, Hope and Love" demanded that Chen not give his blessing to the couple. "From the psychological, biological, public health and family happiness point of view, this kind of marriage is totally abnormal and unacceptable," the letter said.

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European parliament members urge sanctions on Burma

BANGKOK (AFP) — European parliament members have urged economic sanctions against Burma's military regime following attacks on opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as a U.S. senator arrived in Rangoon Sunday on a fact-finding mission.

Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade was attacked Saturday by crowds huddled by the government. The National League for Democracy (NLD) leader was unhurt but party co-vice Chairman Tin Oo was cut by glass from smashed car windows.

British Euro MPs Glenys Kinnock and Glyn Ford called for sanctions against Burma's ruling State Law And Order Restoration Council (SLORC) at a news conference late Saturday in Bangkok.

"It is important for us to press as hard we can for the European Union to take the strongest possible sanctions against Burma and to cease investment in Burma," Mr. Kinnock said.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Rangoon said U.S. Senator John McCain would meet NLD leaders, government officials and businessmen for a first-hand study of political issues and would later report to the U.S. senate.

Mr. Kinnock and Ford had just returned from Rangoon, where they had interviewed the NLD leader prior to the attack. They reported "appalling" conditions and "hundreds of malnourished children" in slums created by forcible relocations.

The end of European trade with Burma would not be effective by itself but would increase pressure on Burma's economic partners in southeast Asia, hopefully in conjunction with action by the United States, Mr. Kinnock said.

"It is important because what you are doing is chipping away at the confidence of the SLORC ... of its stature in the region," the MPs quoted Aung San Suu Kyi as saying.

The SLORC has been pursuing an invitation to membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to counter its pariah status among some western countries.

Following a SLORC crackdown on NLD activities over the past several weeks, however, ASEAN leaders have indicated that Burma might not be ready for membership.

Events Saturday seemed to be an escalation of SLORC's in-purged violence, as up to 1,000 people carrying sticks, stones and catapults attacked the cars of senior NLD leaders.

"No one can imagine that this was a spontaneous incident. It was an organized attack to put her back under de facto house arrest," Mr. Ford said.

Anne San Suu Kyi accused a government mass organisation, the United Solidarity Development Association (USDA), of responsibility, calling it a "racist organization."

Witnesses said hundreds of USDA members in civilian dress arrived and departed on buses in an orderly fashion and that when violence occurred the large police force present did not intervene.

"Burma's problem is not lack of investment. Burma's problem is lack of law ... There is no rule of law in this country," Aung San Suu Kyi said after the violence.

Mr. Kinnock said the Nobel Peace laureate had gone out to tell the people to remain calm, adding that the escalation of violence would be a big setback for SLORC's visit Myanmar 1996 campaign. Due to start soon.

Myanmar is the SLORC's official name for Burma.

"About 50 per cent of the tourists in Burma are from EU countries" and would be unlikely to choose it as a destination when the latest reports came out, Lyndal Barry, of the independent

human rights monitor Images Asia, said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kinnock slammed the French delegation to the EU trade council for vetoing a move to end Burma's trade privileges under the General System of Preferences (GSP).

France had put oil company total's interests above all else, as had Britain when it issued a similar veto last year, valuing Shell's holdings in Nigeria above opposition leaders exiled by the regime, she said.

Total is building a pipeline between an undersea gas field and the Burmese border with Thailand, and has been seen as partly responsible for the military's alleged practices of forced labor and relocations in the area.

Aung San Suu Kyi said the pipeline would double government income, used to enrich only those related to the SLORC, according to Ford and Kinnock.



JOHN PAUL II RELEASES D... Sunday, closing 10 days... priests and more than 200 ca... (Reuters photo)

Sri Lanka gear

COLOMBO — Security forces have been alerted for a nation of Tamils to mark the 20th anniversary of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacks during November.

The attacks during November 1976, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the LTTE's formation, were a major blow to the Sri Lankan government.

He said troops were island's November forces were again from the LTTE. However,

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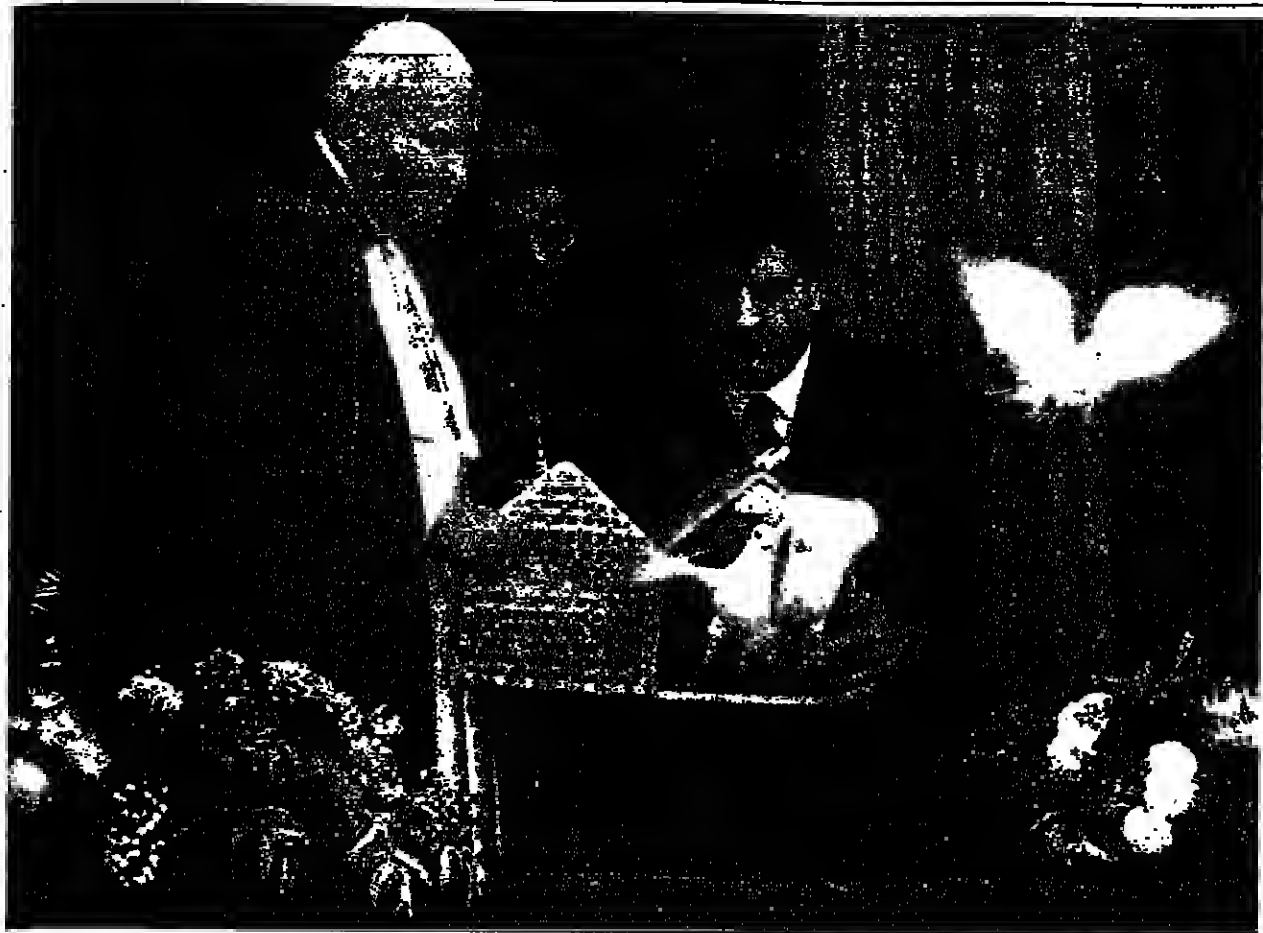
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POPE JOHN PAUL II RELEASES DOVES: Pope John Paul II releases doves from the central balcony of St. Peter's facade Sunday, closing 10 days of ceremonies marking his 50 years as a priest. More than 1,500 Roman Catholic priests and more than 200 cardinals and bishops from around the world paid homage to the 76-year-old Pope (Reuters photo)

Aid agencies awaiting go-ahead to bring relief to eastern Zaire

NAIROBI (AFP) — Relief agency reconnaissance teams were waiting in Rwanda Sunday for a green light to go into eastern Zaire to assess the risk of trucking in a small amount of food later in the day, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

But the approval which U.N. teams need from the governments in Rwanda and Zaire had still not come by early afternoon.

Refugees and displaced Zaireans are already "dying like flies," according to aid workers, who fear that hundreds of thousands more will die of starvation, thirst and disease as Western nations hold lengthy discussions on the logistics of sending in troops to protect the relief workers.

U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) regional spokeswoman Brenda Barton said the assessment teams were waiting for a go-ahead from U.N. special envoy Raymond Chretien and U.N. humanitarian coordinator Sergio De Mello, who are negotiating with the Kinshasa

and Kigali governments.

Relief officials here were tight-lipped on negotiations with the Zairean rebels who hold both towns.

Ms. Barton said that if all went well, two trucks would take up to 15 tonnes of food to Goma, the capital of north Kivu province, from the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi, and that another two trucks would take a similar amount to Bukavu, the south Kivu capital, from Cyangugu.

That represents an infinitesimal amount of the food needed, and the trucks risk being mobbed.

More than a million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees who had earlier fled ethnic conflict in their own countries started leaving their sprawling camps in eastern Zaire on Oct. 13 to escape fighting between Tutsi rebels and Zairean troops.

It took 6,000 to 7,000 tonnes of food each week to feed them, according to the WFP, and now hundreds of thousands of Zaireans are also on the move and in need of assistance.

tance.

Relief workers making aerial assessments report villages abandoned throughout many parts of the east. Supply routes are cut, and the citizens in Goma and Bukavu are out of food too.

Drinking water is needed too as are medical supplies, with relief workers already reporting outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting.

In Bonn it was reported Sunday that the German Non-Governmental Agency (NGO) Christoffel-Blindenmission had succeeded in getting medical supplies into Goma Thursday and Saturday.

More NGOs were likely to try to cross into Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi Sunday, relief sources said, because they do not face the diplomatic constraints hampering the U.N. agencies, who cannot go in without a go-ahead from the governments in the area.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees and Zaireans will still be out of reach if the agencies do succeed in supplying Goma and

Bukavu.

Many are heading west, deeper into Zaire, to escape the fighting, trudging over flesh-tearing volcanic lava, sleeping in forests at night without blankets and sucking tree-roots for moisture, according to reports from some who turned back, saying they had left dead companions behind them.

Some 30,000 of the 145,000 Burundian Hutu refugees have returned to their country, wracked by civil war between the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu guerrillas.

But few of the Rwandan Hutus have returned to Rwanda, fearing reprisals for the 1994 genocide in which Hutu extremists slaughtered more than 500,000 men, women and children before being defeated by an army of rebel Tutsis.

The last relief workers in eastern Zaire pulled out of Goma on Oct. 24 under mortar and machine-gun fire as the rebels captured the town from the ill-disciplined and under-equipped Zairean army.

Sinatra released from hospital

LOS ANGELES (R) — Legendary entertainer Frank Sinatra was released from a Los Angeles hospital Saturday, casting doubt on speculation that he was seriously ill with heart problems.

Mr. Sinatra's publicist, Susan Reynolds, said the 80-year-old singer went home from Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre eight days after being admitted for treatment of what was officially described as a "pinched nerve."

"He is very happy to be home and again thanks everyone throughout the world for the wonderful get-well wishes he has received," Ms. Reynolds said.

Mr. Sinatra's departure from the hospital followed a week-long frenzy of speculation about his condition, with news reports ranging from worsening pneumonia to heart failure.

One day before his release, a Los Angeles TV station had even reported that his hospital room resembled an intensive-care unit.

A source close to Mr. Sinatra said he had, in fact, developed a slight case of pneumonia but was almost fully recovered. "There's been a lot of exaggeration about his condition," the source said.

When Mr. Sinatra entered Cedars-Sinai on Nov. 1, his publicist said he was there for treatment of a "pinched nerve." Mr. Sinatra was originally expected to go home last weekend, but an unexpected extension of his hospital stay fuelled a wave of sometimes conflicting rumours of more serious health problems.

Los Angeles TV station KCBS reported on Friday that his condition was worsening and he was being treated for pneumonia and "heart failure." It said he wanted to go home anyway, against his doctor's advice.

Another local station, KNBC, reported the medicine Mr. Sinatra was given for his pneumonia caused an irregular heartbeat but that he was up and walking around and in no grave danger.

Asked about those reports Saturday, Ms. Reynolds declined comment except to say, "It was the doctor who released him."

Mr. Sinatra was reportedly annoyed over all the speculation about his health, and he asked his publicists and hospital officials to keep a tight lid on information about his condition.

Sri Lanka on alert as Tigers gear up for supremo's birthday

COLOMBO (AFP) — Security forces in Sri Lanka have been placed on red alert for a possible escalation of Tamil Tiger attacks to mark the 42nd birthday of the rebel supremo, officials said Sunday.

Troops and police, particularly in the island's northern and eastern regions have been asked to be on maximum vigilance to prevent spectacular raids by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), officials said.

"Tigers have staged heavy attacks during the month of November because they celebrate a 'hero's week' to coincide with (Velupillai) Prabhakaran's birthday on the 26th," a military official said.

He said more than 70 troops were killed in the island's east during last November and security forces were taking precautions against major attacks from the Tigers this year.

However, the LTTE raid-

ed a police post in the eastern district of Polonnaruwa Saturday and killed six constables and four volunteer guards and escaped with their weapons.

The guerrillas also lobbed two hand grenades at a government-owned shop in the northern peninsula of Jaffna Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding 11 others.

Meanwhile, the LTTE's London office Sunday issued a statement from their leader Prabhakaran expressing "condolences over the killing in Paris" last month of two top Tiger activists.

The LTTE's international treasurer Kandiah Perinpanathan and the editor of an LTTE magazine, Kandiah Gajendran, were shot dead in Paris last month by a lone gunman.

The Sri Lankan security forces have said that the killing was carried out by the LTTE itself because Perinpanathan had been

accused of helping himself to some of the money raised by the LTTE.

The military claim is denied by the Tigers who in turn blame the Sri Lankan government for the killings.

"This is a very serious testing time for us during when we should bear up the calamitous sufferings and continue our mission carefully and firmly without swerving," Prabhakaran said in his message.

He accused the Sri Lankan government of undertaking a "Herculean task" of crushing them by securing the proscription of their organisation in foreign countries and by hocking the contribution from expatriate Tamils.

Prabhakaran who is believed to be hiding somewhere in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland.

Two pro-government Bangladesh students shot dead, 15 wounded

DHAKA (R) — Two students of the pro-government Bangladesh Chhatra League were killed and nearly 15 wounded by unidentified gunmen in the northern town of Mymensingh, police said Sunday.

They said Mymensingh Agriculture University students Kamal Hossain and Ranjit Kumar came were shot while sitting in a tea stall with friends Saturday evening. They died instantly.

The wounded were rushed to hospitals, police and witnesses told reporters.

The shootings occurred only hours after an opposition youth leader, Mosked

Ali Manju, was killed by unidentified attackers at Savar, near Dhaka.

Police said Manju, local chief of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal youth wing of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was believed to have been killed by political rivals.

His angry supporters attacked and damaged nearly 100 buses and other vehicles, injuring up to 200 people, witnesses said.

Police said they feared the two incidents might lead to violent backlash across the country.

The BNP blamed Manju's death on activists of the ruling Awami League, which has denied the charge.

Austria's Haider says has government in sights

FELDKIRCH, Austria (R) — Austrian Nationalist leader Jörg Haider, who heads Europe's biggest far-right grouping, said Sunday he was confident of becoming chancellor when the nation next went to the polls.

The opposition politician appeared in a television debate in a break from a two-day Freedom Party conference in this provincial Alpine town near the Swiss border, 700 kilometres west of Vienna.

"I guess I will become chancellor in 1998. If the vote is delayed a little, then definitely in 1999," Mr. Haider said. His words were broadcast live to 600 cheering delegates in the packed conference hall.

Austria's next scheduled

general elections are due at the end of 1998.

The Freedom Party scored its highest electoral success to date in a European parliamentary poll in October. It snatched 27.6 per cent of the vote from an electorate weary of a Social Democrat-Conservative People's Party coalition that seems short of ideas after a decade in office.

The result awakened disquiet among Austria's neighbours and trading partners who sensed a sea change in the Alpine republic's normally tranquil political scene.

Mr. Haider sought during the convention, which ended Sunday, to shed the far-right label and claim the political middle ground for his party after 10 years at

the helm.

Comparing his controversial immigration policies with those of French conservatives and the United States, Mr. Haider insisted there was nothing extreme in demanding a halt to the influx of foreigners until the labour market picked up.

"The French government has propagated strict immigration controls...the U.S. has erected fences to keep out illegal immigrants from Mexico. It is only reasonable that a small nation in the middle of Europe should consider housing, jobs and integration in its policy towards foreigners," he said.

He attacked Austrian media for vilifying his party and defended its democratic credentials. Politicians and

senior diplomats across Europe and the United States had been quick to seek contact with the Freedom Party after the October poll, Mr. Haider said.

The Freedom Party said it will use its six mandates in the Strasbourg-based European parliament in cooperation with other like-minded groups in order to push for a review of the Maastricht treaty.

Euro-sceptics among Britain's Conservatives, Sir James Goldsmith's anti-European movement and Italy's Northern League, have all been linked with the Freedom Party.

Mr. Haider said he was not opposed to Europe but put Austrian interests above the headlong dash to intro-

duce a single European currency. "I am not willing to see Austria's economy ruined just so that we can qualify for the Euro (single currency)," he said.

He kept his options open on future membership of a single currency, however. "We will look at the situation at the time," he said.

The Freedom Party convention passed a range of economic proposals aimed at reviving the economy while cutting taxes and creating jobs.

"We stand for a lean state, low taxes and we support small and medium-sized business," Mr. Haider told delegates, echoing former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher whom he has said he admires.

Mladic departure leaves NATO uncertain on future

SARAJEVO (R) — No NATO officer will go on record regretting the dismissal of Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic — twice indicted for war crimes and a fugitive from justice at the Hague.

But quite a few will acknowledge the man Bosnian Muslims regard as the "butcher of Bosnia" generally cooperated with them in implementing the military requirements of the Dayton peace accord over the past year.

NATO is wondering if Gen. Mladic will slip quietly into retirement or challenge the authority of Bosnian Serb political leaders who dumped him and his senior staff.

Bosnian Serb President

Biljana Plavsic fired Gen. Mladic on Saturday and watched appointed successor Major General Pero Colic sworn in on Sunday.

If Gen. Mladic resists dismissal, as he did successfully in 1995, will the army obey him or his obscure replacement?

And even if Gen. Mladic goes, would Maj.-Gen. Colic have the same authority to bend the will of obstreperous local commanders to the dictates of Dayton, without which NATO's mission in Bosnia could become both more difficult and dangerous?

"There is no admiration for what (Mladic) did during the war but in terms of our mission of getting the Bosnian armies back in the box he has leant towards

compliance," a NATO officer who asked not to be named said.

"He has been in command of his army. He has been straight in his dealings and kept out of the way. But I would emphasise we have no sympathy with his antecedents (war crimes)," Gen. Mladic was replaced just two days after a change in command of the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia, which is now headed by U.S. General William Crouch.

NATO said Sunday its contacts with the Bosnian Serb army had been so limited in the 24-hours since Gen. Mladic was dismissed that it is still unclear how smoothly the transition is going.

The first reliable indica-

tion of who's running the show may come when crouch meets the Bosnian Muslim, Serb and Croat military leaders for the first time, probably this week, at a forum known as the joint military commission.

As a new commander, Maj. Gen. Crouch is liable to be tested as his predecessors were. He will want to make clear NATO will not tolerate back-sliding on the Dayton-mandated obligation to keep troops and weapons confined to barracks and cantonment areas.

Gen. Mladic is regarded as a genuine hero by most Bosnian Serbs, for whom he was a pitiless champion on the battlefield.

Despite well-documented excesses, he has enjoyed a far higher standing among

professional military men in Bosnia — whether NATO officers or their predecessors in the U.N. Protection Force — than among his Muslim and Croat foes.

"He has presence and when he had power he wielded it ruthlessly. That brought him some grudging respect if not admiration," said a British officer who served in Bosnia under the U.N. and met Gen. Mladic frequently.

"As a man to deal with he often refused to do what we wanted. But when he gave us his word on something he usually did it. He ran a proper, joined-up force. By comparison, the Muslim and Croat commanders were unreliable negotiators."

Pakistan PM says Bhutto, husband to be charged

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Miraj Khalid said Sunday that undisclosed charges would be brought against ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her detained husband Asif Ali Zardari.

Asked if the government was preparing charges against Ms. Bhutto, Mr. Khalid told reporters: "Yes, yes," asked if they would include criminal charges, he said: "All kinds of charges."

Khalid said the government was preparing charges against Zardari, who has been in detention since President Farooq Leghari dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government, in which he served as investment minister for four months.

"In a very short while, these charges will be out and everyone will come to know why we detained or arrested him," Mr. Khalid told a news conference. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto and dissolved parliament last Tuesday, citing corruption, nepotism and misrule he said had virtually paralysed the government. He installed Mr. Khalid as head of an interim government to supervise elections set for Feb. 3.

Ms. Bhutto has voiced fears that charges might be "fabricated" against Zardari, who was the focus of corruption allegations during her three years in office. She has denied that she or her husband were responsible for any wrongdoing.

China propaganda tsars aim at liberal magazines

BEIJING (R) — Two Chinese magazines are struggling for survival after being targeted in a crusade by China's propaganda tsars to cleanse the media of liberal influences, Chinese sources said.

"Focus" magazine in the southern boomtown of Shenzhen has suspended publication for two issues after a Hong Kong newspaper reported the magazine defied propaganda tsars and ran a cover story on the anniversary of the chaotic 1966-76 cultural revolution, the sources said.

The propaganda department of the Communist Party had frowned on any commemoration of the decade of turmoil unleashed by revolutionary leader Mao Zedong to purge political rivals and infuse the nation with renewed ideological vigour.

A writer for the magazine said the suspension was due to a Hong Kong newspaper report of the article's publication.

"Had it not been for the foreign report, the magazine would not have suffered this kind of setback," said the writers, peaking anonymously "this was a kind of punishment...by the party."

In a telephone interview, Li Mei, publisher of Focus, disputed this assessment, saying the suspension was linked to unrelated financial

trouble. Other Chinese sources said the problems at "Focus" stemmed from the Communist Party's clampdown on publications and authors who dare to break away from a smothering diet of state-approved fare.

"If a publication takes a detour (from the party line), it will be suspended for restructuring. There will be no exceptions," one source quoted propaganda tsars as saying.

Propaganda tsars are also debating the fate of the Beijing-based magazine "Orient" for publishing a series of book reviews on the "collected works of Gu Zhun", sources said.

The propaganda department of the ruling Communist Party had ordered a gag on all debate on the thoughts of Gu, an independent thinker who angered Beijing before his death during the cultural revolution.

Gu openly opposed totalitarianism and supported the rule of law and civil rights.

The fifth edition of the magazine was published in September under the watchful eyes of censors, the sources said.

"We will still be able to publish the sixth edition. After that we don't know," a magazine editor, who asked not to be named, said in an interview.

Jordan Times

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World vs fanaticism

THE INTERNATIONAL sympathy that Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) enjoyed after they were denied the fruits of the national elections that they were poised to win in the 1992 did not last for long. It started to dissipate when the militants belonging to the front launched a wave of terrorism in pursuit of their goals. Last week alone witnessed yet another barbaric wave of massacres against innocent civilians at the hands of extremists when women and children had their throats cut in a cold-blooded demonstration of the most wicked and dastardly act of terrorism. The latest crime took place on Tuesday evening in a town, a mere 50 kilometres south of the capital, where four members of a family were summarily executed by the extremists in the most savage way. On the same evening, 32 other civilians, including women and children, were also butchered. Not long before, an act of genocide had taken the lives of 13 more women and children.

These most recent acts of savagery are in fact sequels to others over four years of bloodshed and civil strife in the North African Arab country for no apparent reason except to foil attempts by the leadership to restore law and order in preparation for another parliamentary elections. No matter what the pretexts or explanations are, though, the Algerian extremists who are still striking at innocent people in their own country deserve to be condemned in the strongest and clearest terms.

The Islamic movements in other Muslim countries are called upon to be at the forefront of those forces and people who will not tolerate the murder of innocent civilians. All Muslim countries are urged not only to voice their concern but also to take affirmative action against the extremists. In the same vein, the international community at large can no longer maintain its silence on the premise that the killings in Algeria are an internal matter. What is going on there constitutes a most shocking human rights violation with which all countries should be seized, not only rhetorically but effectively and forcefully as well. We have no doubt in our minds that the extremists of Algeria have effectively forfeited every claim to speak on behalf of their constituents and should be treated as outlaws domestically and internationally.

The plight, the massacres and sufferings of Algerians have regional and international dimensions. As such, the problem warrants concerted action by humanity as a whole. A collective international response may take many forms and shapes. The arrest, several days ago, of 15 persons in Italy accused of aiding and abetting Algerian fanatics offers but one example of what could be done by foreign states against the spread of terror.

On the internal scene, there is no escape from the conclusion that the ultimate solution of the woes of Algeria lies in the return to pluralistic democracy through free elections as soon as possible. Till that moment in time arrives, which we hope could be soon, those who continue to shed the blood of innocent people and wreak havoc and destruction everywhere must not be allowed to get away with murder and genocide.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Sunday commented on the reelection of U.S. President Clinton to a new term in office, saying the Arabs are optimistic that he will now dedicate more time and effort towards ending the deadlock in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Clinton's reelection, he said, has put the president in a bid to work out a solution to the outstanding issues that so far prevented the Arabs and the Israelis from reaching a comprehensive peace, said Tawfiq Abul Rub. The writer said that the real issue is not the implementation of the Oslo agreement, the status of Hebron and the redeployment of Israeli forces there, but rather the next phase of the peace process which entails discussing the future of the Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of the Jewish settlements in the Arab territories. The writer said that the second phase of the negotiations represents the real challenge to the Clinton administration on the Palestinian track, but there are other problems facing Mr. Clinton regarding the Syrian Golan Heights and south Lebanon. The writer said that if Mr. Clinton succeeds in pressuring Israel into reaching a settlement with the Palestinians, the road to other issues on the other tracks will be an easier task.

A WRITER for Al Dustour reflected on corruption in the Arab world, in general, and the Third World, in particular, saying that in real democracies, corrupt officials are not tolerated. In the Arab world, however, corrupt officials are not only tolerated but also tried and imprisoned, regardless of their former positions. Citing the example of the Turkish interior minister who was removed from office after his alleged involvement in a Mafia-like scandal, as well as ministers and senior government officials in Brazil, Italy, Spain and other countries, Taher Al Adwan said democracy in these countries does not and cannot protect the corrupt officials. If the laws and regulations condone gaps allowing the corrupt people to escape retribution, then they do not reflect any democracy, he added. In the Third World, he said, the laws are normally restricted

to the ruling class and the laws are normally restricted to the ruling class. He said that for this reason, corruption is rampant in the countries of the Third World, more than in advanced nations where the rules of democracy are better respected.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Jordan has a duty to attend the MENA conference

THE SEERS of doom are conjuring up low expectations about the Middle East North Africa conference which starts tomorrow in Cairo. The view they propagate is that Jordan's participation at the conference is a waste of time. But is it really a waste to "talk up" Jordan at a summit where hundreds of millions of dollars of free media exposure will be spent by the world community as it zooms in on the region? Not if Jordan does its homework and tells a shining story to investors from all over the world. Is it inappropriate to attend? In spite of all the turbulent politics of the region, Jordan must be represented at the conference, and represented very well at that. There are several reasons why this should be the case.

In the past, when Arab countries used to decide to boycott international conferences and events out of sheer pride or anger at Israel, the Israelis, then the enemy, had the arena all to themselves to tell their side of the story; and they would tell it very well. Meanwhile, those who would not attend would feel that they had fulfilled their national and patriotic duties by simply putting on a "no-show".

Much was lost in the process: when Jordanian businessmen did not present their wares, people from all over the globe thought that Jordan had nothing to offer and sent their money elsewhere, especially to Israel, a country which they knew very well and in which they had invested generously in the past. By our absence, we abdicated potential financial gains to others in the region, abstained from serving Jordan by not informing the world about it in international fora and, significantly, lost many opportunities to acquire more experience and skill in this field.

Moreover, Jordan prospers when its public and private sectors work together to achieve a common goal and conferences like this one do just that; besides, they have the added advantage of creating stronger ties between government and market.

In preparation for the MENA conference in Amman last year, all the forces of production put aside their sometimes adversarial relationships and worked together to make the Amman conference a success. The outcome was greater overall productivity and an advanced sense of togetherness that bolstered the market for several months after the conference.

Furthermore, the public sector works very hard to prepare for these conferences because the output is highly visible to all strata of society. Hence, as the limelight focuses on the performers and the "bystanders," the public sector tends to produce greater and better services than it normally does. For example, in preparation for the Amman MENA conference, the Amman municipality painted the sides of the roads, planted flowers (albeit selectively) on the pavements and road dividers, removed graffiti, and kept the streets cleaner than the norm. If anything came out of the last conference, it was learning that

we do have the potential to produce quality services; all we have to do is to "do it".

However, there are some drawbacks to these conferences: people wait impatiently for funds to drop on their doorstep as if investors, upon deciding in Cairo that a certain Jordanian project is attractive, will automatically take out their chequebooks and start writing cheques. This, of course, does not usually happen. Unfortunately, here is what may happen: after an investor decides to follow up on the venture he investigated at MENA-Cairo, he/she decides to visit Jordan to further evaluate the suitability of the country for business. If, when the investor comes to Jordan, he is unable to get the paperwork processed in time or feels that quality craftsmanship is sub-optimal, or realises that the basic services necessary for the development of a business plan do not exist, he/she simply leaves and the investment opportunity is forfeited. Many of the investors that came to Amman last year did exactly that: they came and left; and with them left millions of dollars worth of investment opportunities.

The nonchalant attitude towards the present MENA may prove to be good in the long run. Last year after MENA Economic Conference at Amman, expectations were extremely high as people boasted endlessly of the size and variety of the Jordanian projects. Dismay followed shortly after; people quickly became disenchanted and started to look for someone at whom they could direct their dismay and frustration. In the aftermath, many decided it was a mistake to have hosted the conference in Amman, which is ridiculous.

But whose fault was it? Everyone's who tried to oversell the conference.

Any economic conference is nothing but an initial sales pitch. What happens to investors when they come to study Jordan, after the pitch is made, is what really is important. What will decide whether people invest in Jordan or not are the simple things, such as: laws that encourage openness and competitiveness, efficient and fast processing of goods through customs procedures, fast delivery of services necessary for the establishment of business processes, bilingual road signs, road maps, roads that serve their purpose in all types of weather, public phones, quality service "with a smile" at restaurants and hotels, and easy, transparent governmental procedures.

Yes, investment is harder to bring in than loans, but unlike loans, which usually go to the public sector, investment expenditures go to the private sector. Every time we borrow money to finance our economy, we make it harder for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the fruits of their labour because it is their taxes that will have to pay for our loans, with interest. Every time money is invested in Jordan, more jobs and income are created for this generation, helping to increase our saving and invest more in the future of the next generation.

Bill and Boris — another four years

By Gwynne Dyer

TWO WORLD leaders got a new lease on life last Tuesday night (Nov. 5). U.S. President Bill Clinton won another four years in office thanks to the voters, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, will probably have another four years in office thanks to the skill of his doctors.

In their first terms, it was Boris Yeltsin who had the truly terrifying roller-coaster ride, while Bill Clinton suffered little more than a brief spell of sulking in the shade of Newt Gingrich's 15 minutes of fame.

Most observers assume that the two men's second terms will follow the same pattern: a sedate cruise towards the millennium celebrations for Bill Clinton, while Boris Yeltsin reels from one crisis to the next. But it isn't necessarily so.

Yeltsin's first term was like a modern-day version of the old silent-film serial "The Perils of Pauline". At the end of each episode, there he was, tied to the tracks again, while the villain (Khasbulatov, Rutskoi, Zhirinovsky, Zyuganov, Lebed) twirled his moustache triumphantly and the locomotive thundered ever closer.

Fade to black, we went out to buy some popcorn, and by the time we got back in the theatre the usual miracle had occurred. With a single bound our hero was

free — to stumble towards the next crisis. He always survives, but it is never over.

And why would we believe that things are going to be different in his second term? Russia is brimming with problems, from long-unpaid soldiery to a chronic inability to collect taxes to a war in Chechnya that may or may not be really over.

Once Yeltsin is fully recovered and back in harness (which could be as early as January), his second term may turn out to be a lot smoother than his first.

For one thing, the peace in Chechnya is likely to survive. "The agreement has been signed and every letter of it must be fulfilled," said Ivan Rybkin, who replaced Alexander Lebed as chief peace negotiator with the Chechens after the latter was dismissed, on Oct. 27. The Russian troop pull-out continues, and the thorny final question of Chechnya's formal independence has been postponed for five years — well past the next Russian presidential election.

The economy will take a long time to turn around, and Yeltsin's pre-election spending spree has not helped. But the legendary Russian patience in the face of economic hardship continues, and by four years from now, with luck, there could be getting much better on this front, too. Yeltsin may be able to greet the new

millennium with a smile.

And how about Bill Clinton? Will he be heading into a long and happy retirement amid the plaudits of a grateful nation? That remains to be seen, because Clinton's second term may turn out to be a bit rockier than it now looks.

Domestically, he has nothing very large or controversial planned. Now that the election is over he must address the question of extending the time American troops remain in Bosnia, and next year there will be sensitive decisions over the expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe. Compared to other presidents' problems, however, all this does not amount to a very tall hill of beans.

Moreover, the "sleeping" issues that could know everybody's calculations into a cocked hat, like runaway global warming or an absolute grain shortage worldwide, are mostly on time-tables that are unlikely to disturb Clinton's presidency. As for the risk of major international aggression that could draw in the United States, it is infinitesimal.

But there is one scheduled "surprise" that could make the latter half of Clinton's term very difficult. Just over two years from now, most of the larger countries of the European Union are pledged to introduce a new common currency, the euro. As soon as it appears, it will

become the hardest major currency in the world.

At the moment, these European countries, with a total population about equal to that of the United States, have to maintain foreign currency reserves four times as big as the U.S. because they must defend all their various currencies from assaults by speculators. They hold most of those foreign currency reserves, of course, in U.S. dollars.

But as soon as the euro appears, they will unload huge amounts of those dollars — and most other major currencies will be dumping dollars too, as they seek to diversify their own foreign exchange holdings by transferring a large chunk of them into euros. The result could knock 10 to 15 per cent off the value of the dollar against other major currencies.

In the long run, this would just enhance American competitiveness in the global market — but in the short run, it could be a nightmare for Bill Clinton. The economic hurricane would still not have blown out by the end of Clinton's term.

Of course, Clinton could get lucky, and the Europeans might have to postpone the introduction of the new currency until 1999 or beyond. Indeed, given his seemingly boundless luck so far, that probably will happen. Life, as Bob Dole remarked, is unfair.

Human Rights File

'Jordan's electoral system must be anchored in international norms'

By Waleed M. Sadi

Last week's seminar entitled "Electoral law: a comparative analysis", organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, was timely. It was also a bid to try find ways to streamline the Jordanian democratic process and make it more harmonious with international norms.

The centre deserves to be commended for yet another initiative to develop Jordan's democratic process and trying to perfect it. The various polls conducted by the centre on several key issues, that measured public sentiment or mood, are also "novelties" in the country's public life and, their cumulative effect, helped steer the country in the right direction.

Eminent scholars from several countries contribute to the deliberations of the seminar, alongside Jordanian politicians, academics and human rights activists. The so-called "electoral engineers" from both the Arab and the Western worlds brought with them a wealth of experience on the subjects raised at the seminar, based on a long tradition and experience in pluralistic democracy in their respective countries. This in itself was a positive step in the national efforts to improve its comprehension of the dynamics of the ongoing democratic process in the country.

There were certain fundamental issues tackled by the participants, both national and foreign, which focused on different electoral systems that could be made available to Jordan and which ranged from plurality, to majoritarian, to semi-proportional and proportional types.

There were, naturally, pros and cons for each formula discussed, as no system has a monopoly on all the virtues of effective and democratic representation of all citizens. The European guests, understandably, endorsed the proportional electoral system based on their country's long experience in democratic rule.

The Western participants also seemed to have concluded that Jordan's one-person, one-vote system is "semi-proportional" and should be shunned. The one-man, one-vote electoral system adopted in 1993 was described by Prof. Elklit as "combining the negative aspects of both proportional and majoritarian systems because it was found that this model" will erode the parties from within and create tensions from below because of lack of fair representation of all groups.

There was no pretension that the proportional model is a perfect formula to ensure equitable representation of all citizens. On balance, the proportional electoral system appears as the least imperfect mechanism in operational democracies since it is not only, prima facie, more "democratic" than the other systems but also "assures the representation of minorities, and make power sharing more visible" as Dr. Andrew Reynolds (the Swedish participant) put it.

This assumption was also endorsed by two other prominent guests at the seminar, namely, Norwegian Professor, Dr. Bernt Aardal, and the Danish scholar, Dr. Jorgen Elklit. Some Jordanians voiced support for the Western approach while some opposed it because of the so-called peculiarities of the country.

Former minister and head of the Legal Committee in the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, for example, explained that "an electoral system is the result of specific factors which are different in each country." In the case of Jordan, Dr. Rawabdeh expanded, "the proportional system would create instability and contribute to a rise of extremism".

This line of thinking in effect calling for the acceptance of the so-called "peculiar" conditions of each and every state. This, the developing countries have been demanding in practically every international forum addressing human rights issues in a bid to apply on them less stringent human rights standards.

The other half of the international community, however, has repeatedly rejected this perspective by reminding the developing world that there are certain norms which should be observed by all countries, no matter how "peculiar" their own set of conditions.

Equality between citizens means equal political power that can find expression in the voting process. No state, big or small, poor or rich, may argue that its own distinguishing conditions may be invoked to derogate from this cardinal equality principle. If some of us are in effect arguing that Jordan's special situation warrants the application of an electoral voting process that violates the equality rule, then we are swimming against the international current regarding equal voting rights.

This cardinal principle of equality touches also on the so-called quota system that some Jordanians insisted on to ensure women, ethnic and religious representation in Parliament. I am lumping all these groups together because they essentially pose the same issue, namely, the preservation of equality between citizens, irrespective of their religion, background or gender, with the call for the promotion of the representation of these groups in Parliament.

It was not surprising to note that the Western group of experts did not endorse the quota system as such at a time when the Jordanian side found itself deeply divided on the pros and cons of the proposal.

It must be borne in mind that the equality norm supercedes other factors, or political considerations because we cannot in one breath maintain that there shall be no discrimination between people on the basis of race, colour, religion, ethnic origin or sex and then submit that there is an absolute need for a quota system to make sure that these groups of people are represented in the elected Parliament.

Given the complexity of the ongoing dialogue on how best to amend the electoral system in the country, the decision taken at the seminar to establish a commission of experts and academicians to take over the responsibility of drafting a new Jordanian electoral law strikes me as a sensible way to go about dealing with the subject. By way of a footnote I propose, however, that the composition of any such national commission be expanded to include statesmen, politicians, clergymen and human rights activists.

The one thing that remained notably absent from all the deliberations concluded on the subject was the reference to the country's human rights treaty obligations. There are internationally binding standards which apply to Jordan as well and which, when taken into consideration, would seal the course of the debate one way or another.

I suggest here that the projected commission be entrusted to take into consideration not only the views expressed at the seminar but also the international human rights jurisprudence. Debates on the country's electoral system cannot be discussed in a legal vacuum. The international norms should set the tone for all future deliberations whether official or private.

LETTERS

NHS is fine

To the Editor:

WHILST ON a recent visit to Jordan and India, as a tourist, I read the article "Britain's national health service is in critical condition" (Jordan Times, Nov. 7, 1996) and was much concerned.

The article, written by Allen Nacheman of the Agence France-Presse, is alarmist and critical of a service that has been in existence for over 40 years. In this age of new technology, and prolonged life expectancy, it is inevitable that any national service will be under pressure to provide for all and sundry. Therefore, the option of private health insurance is a sensible way of complementing the health care of the

nation and there is nothing wrong with the alternative of people opting for private treatment if they can and are willing to pay either directly or through health insurance.

The health minister, Gerry Malone, is quite correct in saying that any comment about the service being near collapse is absolute nonsense. The National Health Service (NHS) of Britain is still the finest in the world and those who criticise it should look at the health service provided by other nations.

John Mottershead,
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Knutsford, Cheshire,
WA16 8TR,
United Kingdom.

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Features

How to provide for today without forgetting the future

THE SINGLE greatest challenge that agriculture faces is how to increase production sufficiently to feed an expected population of 8.3 billion by the year 2025 without destroying the resources that subsequent generations will need to draw upon.

Land and water are finite. Despite dramatic agricultural advances, many millions of people remain under-nourished. Arable land in the world increased only slightly from 1,294 million hectares in 1972 to 2,347 million ha in 1992. The availability of water per capita is declining rapidly.

Planners have concluded that the only possible response to these constraints is a strategy of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD), which will provide for the present without prejudicing the future. Increases in production must come mainly from existing land and water managed in a sustainable manner.

Agricultural activities that degrade the productive potential of land and water resources by causing soil erosion, waterlogging and salinisation of irrigated lands, threaten biodiversity and pollute surface and

groundwater sources are self-defeating. Pollution of coastal and inland waters and overfishing of the oceans cost too high a price in environmental, social and economic terms.

Excessive demands of rich consumers in developed countries and the developmental needs of the poor can both strain natural resources.

Achieving sustainability

Involving farmers is essential to sustainability. This is a two-way street: giving farmers incentives, technical information and support to manage their land and water sustainably and receiving from them the know-how of farming systems that can be adapted to increase yields while safeguarding the resource base.

Relatively simple new approaches can help increase food supplies in both developed and developing countries without depleting the resources on which they depend or relying as heavily on inputs such as fossil fuels, mineral fertilisers and chemical pesticides. Much can be accomplished through improving management of natural resources by:

- Maintaining a diversity of crops and varieties to protect farmers against failure in any one crop and providing new ways of increasing food supplies.

- Little known varieties of potatoes from the Andes, which thrive in poor mountain soils and are high in protein, could, for example, have important potential for farmers in other parts of the world.

- Diversifying farming a systems to make greater use of the biological and genetic potential of plant and animal species.

- Taking advantage of natural processes such as recycling nutrients and intercropping plants that fix their own nitrogen can reduce dependence on mineral fertilisers and enrich soil.

- Adopting integrated pest management (IPM) techniques, which include conserving existing natural enemies, rotating crops, intercropping and planting pest-resistant varieties. When pesticides are necessary, they are used selectively and in smaller quantities.

- Rotating crops and developing agroforestry systems that help to maintain soil fertility.

- Switching whenever

feasible to renewable energies such as biomass and solar and wind power, which are locally available, non-polluting and have the added benefit of creating employment.

New approaches to irrigation

One of the most important technologies for increasing production is also one of the oldest — irrigation. Irrigated land is more than twice as productive as rain-fed cropland. The 16 per cent of the world's cropland that is irrigated at present produces more than 36 per cent of the world's food. Bringing more land under irrigation, especially in Africa, could boost production. As much as two-thirds of future gains in crop production are expected to come from irrigated land.

But rising costs and looming shortages of water along with unwelcome legacies of bad design, poor management and bureaucratic blunders have discouraged efforts to expand irrigation over the past two decades. Badly handled irrigation has led to waterlogging and salinisation in nearly 50 per cent of the land where it has been introduced. Pollutants and

sediments have been allowed to accumulate in dams and reservoirs, and irrigation systems have proved an ideal habitat for vectors of waterborne diseases.

More than two-thirds of the water withdrawn from the earth's rivers, lakes and aquifers is used for irrigation. But in a world where 26 countries are already classified as "water deficient," less than half the water diverted for irrigation actually reaches the crops.

In recent years, however, new irrigation methods have been developed that use water more efficiently through recycling waste and providing better drainage. Drip irrigation and low-pressure spray systems deliver water directly to crops, and small dams located closer to agricultural areas are replacing large projects that strain the environment. Lining canals with concrete and covering them reduces seepage and evaporation.

Raising production

Future food security will depend mainly on increasing the productivity of agriculture rather than extending the area under cultivation. The technological rev-

olution of the 1950s and 1960s showed the huge potential offered by new high-yielding varieties of wheat, rice and other staple foods. Largely through the adoption of these varieties, food production in developing countries grew at an average of 3.2 per cent a year between 1960 and 1990, an unparalleled increase that outstripped the rate of population growth.

The first high-yielding varieties depended on water, machinery, chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Furthermore, the dramatic gains in production among the developing countries were largely confined to Asia and parts of Latin America. Research into intensive agriculture continues, but it is becoming more holistic in its approach. There is a growing recognition that while continuing to focus on high potential areas where the chances of increasing food production while minimising adverse impact are most favourable, the technological revolution experienced in most of the world must also become more widespread in regions that so far have hardly been touched, Africa in particular. Researchers are seeking

to develop drought-resistant food crops that will flourish with low inputs even in marginal land. They are concentrating on rain-fed agriculture, animal traction, intercropping, nutrient recycling and integrated pest management, emphasising crop diversification and acknowledging the importance of women's roles. They are working to improve small-scale fishing technology, in-shore and inland fisheries and aquaculture and looking at ways to better utilise multipurpose tree crops, community forestry and agroforestry.

The potential of biotechnology

Biotechnology holds immense potential for agriculture. Through gene manipulation, scientists have already produced faster-growing fish and cheaper, more effective vaccines against livestock diseases. They have used tissue culture to boost the productivity of oil palm and eucalyptus plantations.

Some 50 plant species have been altered through biotechnology, and this is only a beginning. Scientists have developed potato plants resistant to disease, barley with accelerated

growth rates and onions that are slower to sprout or rot after cropping. Vine-ripened tomatoes with a much increased shelf life are being marketed in the United States and Europe. Scientists in Mexico have found two wild ancestors of maize that have the capacity to confer resistance to seven of the domestic crop's major diseases and turn maize into a perennial crop harvested every year without sowing.

But these processes have raised some new concerns. While some consumers in developed countries are wary of possible effects on health of fruits and vegetables altered by biotechnology, developing countries fear that substances synthesised in the laboratory or produced by transgenic crops may undercut such traditional exports as vanilla, pyrethrum, rubber and coconut oil. What about the unknowns? Could cloned varieties erode genetic diversity? Could genes from transgenic crops spread to wild relatives?

This article is reprinted from the Rome-based magazine World Food Summit.

Qasr Al Azraq — where destinies were meant to be shaped

By Francesca Ciriaci

AZRAQ — His face wrinkled and weathered, his old body wrapped in a grey worn-out dishdash, Mu'ayed Assad Abu Ghaleb shows visitors the way through the clusters of stones, inside the great ruins of Qasr Al Azraq.

Time stopped in this green oasis in the middle of the black-basalt desert less than one hundred kilometres east of Amman.

Everything here brings us back to 1917, the great Arab Revolt against the Turks in the midst of World War I. Between the solemn towers of the ancient Roman fort, the shouts and the rifle-shots of the Bedouin warriors can still be heard in the air.

Abu Ghaleb names, one by one, the sheikhs of the most noble tribes which took part in the revolt and, notwithstanding the plastic badge dangling from his pocket, it is immediately clear that his narration is not going to be the cold explanation given by any tourist guide.

His blue eyes shine with pride when he talks about his father who, together with 200 horsemen from Syria, came to Azraq to join the revolt. First in the Aqaba campaign and then in the

march on Damascus.

Along with Sherif Hussein of Mecca, the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt, and his son Faisal, the military chief of operations in Jordan, the warriors found in Azraq a curious figure of a young British officer: 29-year-old Thomas Edward Lawrence, Prince Faisal's political and military adviser, known afterwards as "Lawrence of Arabia."

Pointing at "Captain Lawrence's room," a small chamber in the southern tower, atop the arch of the main entrance, Abu Ghaleb explains how his father responded to Amir Faisal's call and left Syria to fight on the young prince's side in 1917.

Amir Faisal, a leader with "the flame of enthusiasm" which "set the desert on fire," as Lawrence described him, knew how to talk straight to the hearts of the Arabs.

Qasr Al Azraq served as Lawrence's headquarters and from here he started many of his operations in Arabia, from June 1916 to October 1918.

Most impressive from a military point of view, the black basalt fort was one of the most far-flung vanguards of the Roman conquest. Of vital strategic importance, it was built in

the late Roman era, at the end of the 3rd century. Restored and used by the Muslim armies as a stronghold to resist the Crusader offensive in the 13th century, Qasr Al Azraq is now no more than the shell of what once must have been an imposing fortress.

The massive front gate, made of one huge black basalt stone, still swings heavily on its resplendent pivot, but the rooms in the two-storey castle, which once ranged along its entire length, stand in a dilapidated condition today.

We can still recognise the stables, however, and the mangers and tethering holes cut through the basalt, beneath a series of massive stone arches.

In his writings, Lawrence drew a detailed account of his days in Azraq, and the "slow nights" in the fort, sitting around the fire, while "coffee was being pounded by the hearth."

He wrote about his companions and about the "strange, long wailing" of the dogs of the Bani Hilal, the mythical builders of the fort, which "quested the six towers each night for their dead masters."

"We were secure against the world," he later recalled, "and, further, we had ghostly guardians."

Lawrence also wrote about the little mosque we can still visit today, the centrepiece of the fortress, sitting almost dead centre of the compound and very much ready for use. Soldiers stationed at the fort during the revolt cleaned this beautiful little shrine which for centuries had been half unroofed and used to house sheep.

"The mosque then became a most attractive place of prayer. What had been a place shut off, dedicated to God alone, Time had broken to the Evanescence with its minstering winds and rain and sunlight; these entering into the worship taught worshippers how the Two were One," Lawrence wrote.

The second of four sons of a "novel" couple, Lawrence had received from his mother, a devout woman oppressed by the unbearable weight of her sinful relationship with his father, a profound religious education. The long rainy nights in Azraq and the beauty of the small mosque in the fort's yard must have brought to surface Lawrence's deep religious faith. In his "Seven pillars of wisdom", he described Qasr Al Azraq as a "luminous, silky Eden."

Though nowadays only a

few tourists visit the fort every day, in Lawrence's time a "flood of visitors" used to crowd Qasr Al Azraq: "All day and every day, now in the running column of shots... which meant a Bedouin parade... chiefs of great name like Ibn Zuhair, Ibn Kabir, Rafa Al Krelsha, or some little father of a family demonstrating his greedy goodwill before the fair eyes of Faisal bin Al-Hussain."

And also, Druze, Armenians, Syrian politicians or traders and Arab deserters from the Turkish army, "always they came, day after day, till the desert, which had been trackless when we came, was starred out with grey roads." According to historians, Lawrence here refers to Arab volunteers joining the Arab Revolt.

The momentum of a national movement needs to be sustained, and the British assistance, brought about with Lawrence's efforts, helped, even more, the liberation war against the Ottoman Empire.

Abu Ghaleb recalls that his father used to get 25 golden sovereigns a month to fight for "Al Malek (King) Faisal."

But neither Abu Ghaleb's father nor his comrades in arms knew at the time that

in Europe, Great Britain and France, with the Sykes-Picot agreement, had already decided Arabia's destiny and defined their zones of influence. At the end of the war, under the Mandate regime, Syria would fall to the French, and Faisal would be given the Kingdom of Iraq.

Captain Lawrence, however, did know. He knew even while, in Qasr Al Azraq, he was preparing to take part in Prince Faisal's campaign to free Syria.

In September 1917, in a letter to a friend, he wrote: "I am strongly pro-British and also pro-Arab. France takes third place with me; but I quite recognise that we may have to sell our future security in the Near East to pay for our present victory in Flanders, or sell our small friends to pay our big friends."



Assad Abu Ghaleb showing photos of his father

A world war was going on in Europe, and that is where the destinies of the

world were being decided. Even those of the Bedouin soldiers of Qasr Al Azraq.

Suharto arrives here today

(Continued from page 1)

increasing the trade volume.

Petra said the Kingdom's exports of phosphate, potash and fertilisers to Indonesia, which have been on the increase since 1994, amounted to more than \$38 million last year. Jordan's main

imports from Indonesia are timber, vegetables oil, textiles and clothing.

According to sources at the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Indonesian private sector business delegation will include representatives from furniture and textile manufacturers as well as from firms

operating in the tourism and air transport sectors.

Chief of the Middle East Division at the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muschrim Hakim will head the delegation.

Indonesian Minister of Industry and Trade Tunku Aribowo is expected to head the public sector business delegation, sources at the JBA said.

King receives troika delegation

(Continued from page 1)

The three EU representatives also met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who said the EU emissary could play "an effective role" in relaunching the peace

process and informing European leaders of its ups and downs.

The Irish foreign minister said the troika's Middle East journey, which began Saturday in Damascus, is aimed at expressing the

EU's "concern for the Arab-Israeli peace process which is now on its deathbed."

Mr. Spring said the troika's mission was to look into the Middle East peace process and "discuss with Syrian officials how to relaunch the negotiations." The troika is to travel next to Cairo.



Qasr Al Azraq — the small rectangular window over the main entrance is of Lawrence's room (photos by Francesca Ciriaci)



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His Excellency President Suharto
and His accompanying delegation

Wishing His Excellency

and delegation a pleasant

and fruitful stay in the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

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Mideast, North Africa markets booming, analysts say

CAIRO (R) — When Arab states and Israel gather in Cairo today, they may all agree on one thing — the direction their economies are going.

Economists and officials attending the Middle East and North Africa economic conference on Nov. 12 to 14 say a trend towards privatisation and liberalisation has taken root on common ground from North Africa to the Middle East and the Gulf.

Some see the region as a frontier of virgin territory for private investment and joint ventures with foreign partners.

"The trend is a free market economy which means privatisation and liberalisation of trade," said Ahmad Abu Al Kheir, Egyptian foreign ministry coordinator for the conference.

Middle East economies are expected to show signs of an economic upturn and could double growth this year, analysts say.

"This is the last of the truly emerging markets," said Richard Holmes, of the national U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

More than 80 delegations from America to Asia will attend the conference, staking out nascent economies working to liberalise trade, attract foreign investment and privatise.

The conference is the third of its kind aimed at

integrating the region's economy. But some Arab states, angered at what they see as Israel's hardline policies, have questioned whether the meeting could bear fruit before full Arab-Israeli peace.

The previous two conferences were intended to integrate Israel in the regional economy after peace deals with the Palestinians. But this unraveled with the May election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who refuses to trade occupied Arab lands for peace.

"Everybody knows that without peace there is no hope for economic development," said Mitsuo Sakaba, deputy chief of mission at the Japanese embassy in Egypt.

"They (businessmen) see much economic potential in the region," he added. "The business environment should be cleared up together with the factor of negotiations on the peace process so the huge potential of this region can be exploited."

But officials say the movement toward liberalisation and privatisation was sparking fresh interest in investment.

Notable progress has been made in Egypt, which cut tariffs and is privatising. Egypt's economy is expected to grow at least six per cent a year if the government continues reforms.

Egypt's North African neighbours have mirrored the trend.

Tunisia has pledged to speed up privatisation with the sell-off of 15 more firms before the end of 1996. A further 62 are slated for sale over the next few years. It liberalised foreign access to its bourse and set up a convertible dinar.

Morocco plans to cede shares in 68 state-run firms by the end of 1998 and parliament this year adopted a law to simplify investment proceedings. It has gradually liberalised its economy and reduced trade barriers since 1994, when it was the first Arab country to host the Middle East economic conference.

Algeria is also moving in the same direction, steadily easing open its local market to foreign investors. It also intends to expand its modest "pilot" privatisation plan.

Jordan has said it is committed to free market reforms. It has drafted key laws to boost export industries and attract foreign investment to create jobs.

Israel has virtually no barriers to foreign investment and although the trading regime has been liberalised, a push to liberalise capital and money markets has slowed. The government is promising a new privatisation programme and market reforms.

Privatisation is also the

buzzword in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), but it has progressed relatively slowly.

Kuwait is selling off state holdings in various firms and Oman is giving the private sector a bigger role. In Saudi Arabia, the first utility company with foreign and private participation is set to be operational by end-1997.

The GCC also includes Bahrain, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates.

Apart from a few free trade zones, foreign firms are mainly limited to 49 per cent ownership in most states. Foreign investment in Gulf equity markets are also restricted.

Tariffs vary, and some industries are heavily protected.

There have been some signs of easing. Oman's new tax laws will make it more attractive for firms to have foreign holders.

Turkey's Islamist-led government made accelerating sell-offs a priority in efforts to raise finances to rein in deficits.

A 10-year-old privatisation programme has been stalled by political opposition and regulatory obstacles. But political and economic concerns have not halted steady foreign investment, encouraged by Turkey, reaching \$9.2 billion since 1980.

Palestinian diaspora injected billion dollars into self-rule economy

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinians abroad injected one billion dollars into the Palestinian economy over the past year, saving it from "certain starvation," a Palestinian official has said.

"Over the past year Palestinians abroad have sent a total of one billion dollars into the West Bank and Gaza either to their relatives or into investment projects," International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said.

"Without that amazing amount, Palestine would not have been able to continue during this difficult year and we would never have been able to face the certain starvation which would have resulted," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath was speaking to a gathering of representatives from donor countries, the World Bank and

the United Nations in Gaza City.

The Palestinian economy has been smothered for most of this year under an Israeli security closure of the territories which has stopped free movement of goods and workers, imposed after a series of anti-Israel bombings in February.

"Just to be clear to those that ask what are your own people abroad doing for you: Our people gave us one billion dollars, while all the donor countries together gave only \$250 million," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath told the gathering the Palestinian National Authority had drawn up an investment plan for 1997 worth \$977 million, \$300 million of which would come from aid already promised by donor countries.

"For the next year we will require additional aid for the rest, \$650 million," he said.

The gathering was the last preparatory meeting to draw up the investment plan before a conference of donor countries meets in Paris on Nov. 19-21 to approve it.

The investment projects include the construction of a seaport and an airport in Gaza and of hospitals, roads and schools, as well as water, electricity, agricultural and industrial projects, Dr. Shaath said.

The money will also go towards developing tourism, including plans for an international festival in Bethlehem to celebrate the two-millennium anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth in 2000.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NGS | FRF |
| US Dollar | 1.5041 | 0.6068 | 1.2645 | 111.46 | 1.3290 | 1513.03 | 1.6870 | 5.0895 | |
| DE Mark | 0.6648 | | 0.4029 | 0.8406 | 72.10 | 0.8933 | 1005.60 | 1.1218 | 3.2833 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6485 | | | 2.0833 | 183.80 | 2.1909 | 2494.23 | 2.7810 | 8.3900 |
| CH Franc | 0.7908 | 118.30 | 0.4792 | | 88.13 | 1.0506 | 1198.07 | 133.42 | 4.0233 |
| JP Yen | 0.0090 | 1.3484 | 0.5435 | 1.1336 | | 1.1914 | 13.56 | 151.23 | 4.5625 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7524 | 1.4432 | 0.4554 | 0.9617 | 1.19 | | 1145.17 | 1.2615 | 3.8821 |
| IT Lira | 0.0007 | 0.9934 | 0.4004 | 0.0835 | 1359.25 | | | 11.14 | 3.3616 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5828 | 88.13 | 0.3592 | 74.94 | 96.03 | 0.7875 | 896.56 | | 3.0158 |
| FR Franc | 0.1965 | 0.2955 | 0.1191 | 24.8404 | 21.88 | 0.2611 | 33.14 | 33.1400 | |

| Energy | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| Oil | Last | Previous |
| Brent | 23.50 | 22.20 |
| W. Texas | 23.55 | 22.75 |
| Bony | 23.30 | 22.20 |
| Dubai | 20.48 | 20.44 |
| UL Gas | 217.00 | 216.00 |

| Mid-East Currencies | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
| SA Riyal | 0.2668 | 0.4012 | 0.16175 | 0.3373 | 29.744 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.40968 | 0.16517 | 0.34445 | 30.373 |
| KW Dinar | 3.3478 | 5.03778 | 2.03087 | 4.23649 | 373.41 |
| BF Dinar | 0.3770 | 3.89042 | 1.60901 | 3.3557 | 295.948 |
| CY Pound | 2.1713 | 3.2659 | 1.3163 | 2.7456 | 241.99 |

| Metal Prices | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Metal | Bid | Offer |
| Gold (oz's) | 379.35 | 379.75 |
| Silver (oz's) | 4.84 | 4.86 |
| Platinum (oz's) | 382.85 | 383.95 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1450 | 1455 |
| CU (3 Months) | 1986 | 1993 |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1060 | 1065 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 733 | 737 |
| Ni (3 Months) | 7230 | 7260 |

| Currency Deposit Rates (Bid) | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Period | 1 - 3 | 3 - 6 | 6 - 9 | 9 - 12 | 12 - 18 | 18 - 24 | 24 - 36 | 36 - 48 | 48 - 60 |
| Cred Month | Month | Months | Months | Months | Year | | | | |
| USD | 5.25 | 5.37 | 5.40 | 5.46 | 5.58 | | | | |
| GBP | 5.94 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.43 | 6.82 | | | | |
| JPY | 0.27 | 0.35 | 0.46 | 0.43 | 0.82 | | | | |
| DEM | 3.00 | 2.81 | 2.91 | 3.00 | 3.16 | | | | |
| FRF | 3.30 | 3.35 | 3.44 | 3.46 | 3.54 | | | | |
| CHF | 1.72 | 1.81 | 1.88 | 1.81 | 1.87 | | | | |
| ITL | 7.59 | 7.44 | 7.15 | 7.00 | 6.87 | | | | |

| Energy | | |
|----------------|--------|----------|
| Commodity | Last | Delivery |
| Coffee (c/lbs) | 125.17 | Spot |
| Cocoa (5/ton) | 1350 | Spot |
| Sugar (5/ton) | 312.6 | Spot |
| Wheat (5/ton) | 143 | Spot |
| Soy (c/lbs) | 21.69 | Spot |
| Tea (kg/kg) | 118 | Spot |
| Barley (5/ton) | 2.14 | Spot |
| Rice (5/ton) | 470 | Spot |

| JOD Cross Rates | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--|
| Currency | Buy | Sell | |
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 | |
| GB Sterling | 1.1861 | 1.1719 | |
| DE Mark | 0.4703 | 0.4727 | |
| CH Franc | 0.5594 | 0.5622 | |
| FR Franc | 0.1369 | 0.1396 | |
| JP Yen | 0.8341 | 0.8373 | |
| NL Guilder | 0.4194 | 0.4215 | |
| IT Lira | 0.4676 | 0.4699 | |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

U.S. banking on M.E. business ties to hold despite peace problems

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States preparing for a Middle East economic conference in Cairo this week, is banking on newly established business contacts in the area to hold firm despite recent jolts to regional peace.

While assessments of the conference outcome have been uniformly gloomy in the Arab World, officials here point to the size and breadth of the U.S. business delegation as an indication that the Middle East

remains a good investment risk.

The official U.S. team at the three-day gathering starting Tuesday will be headed by two cabinet chiefs. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, who are on their way out of President Bill Clinton's second administration.

But if the political side is captained by lame-duck leaders, the U.S. business representation is likely to

be more formidable than it has been at similar conferences in Casablanca in 1994 and last year in Amman.

"The U.S. business delegation will probably be stronger than it has been at any of the previous conferences," said Rebecca Ilder, a Middle East spokeswoman at the U.S. State Department.

"It's a broader delegation — more than 125 companies, more than 250 individuals — spanning multi-

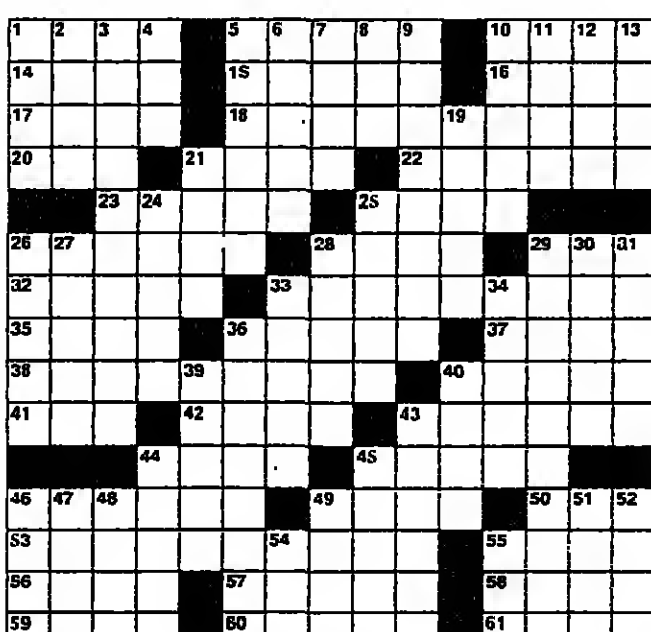
nationals based in the United States to medium-sized companies."

Some of the biggest names in the U.S. corporate world, notably Westinghouse, Amoco, Lockheed Martin, American Express and Enron, will be sending representatives to the meeting, expected to draw more than 3,000 delegates overall from 88 countries.

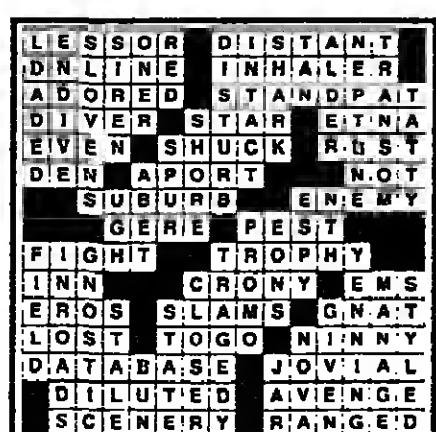
Ms. Ilder denied the conference had been undermined by the late September explosion in Israeli-Palestinian violence that left 82 people dead and by the failure of later talks to secure an Israeli military withdrawal from West Bank town of Hebron.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Pretense
 - 5 Leaflike part
 - 10 Family member
 - 14 Fledgling
 - 15 Rapsallion
 - 16 Press smooth
 - 17 Ordinance
 - 18 Anomaly
 - 20 Genetic initials
 - 21 Concur
 - 22 Blustery
 - 23 discourse
 - 23 Garish
 - 25 Greet the judge
 - 26 Clues for bloodhounds
 - 28 Close
 - 28 hermetically
 - 29 Vietnam city
 - 32 Moch
 - 33 Seize
 - 35 Wavy, in heraldry
 - 36 Fuzzy var.
 - 37 Sow one's wild



by Anthony R. Mupo

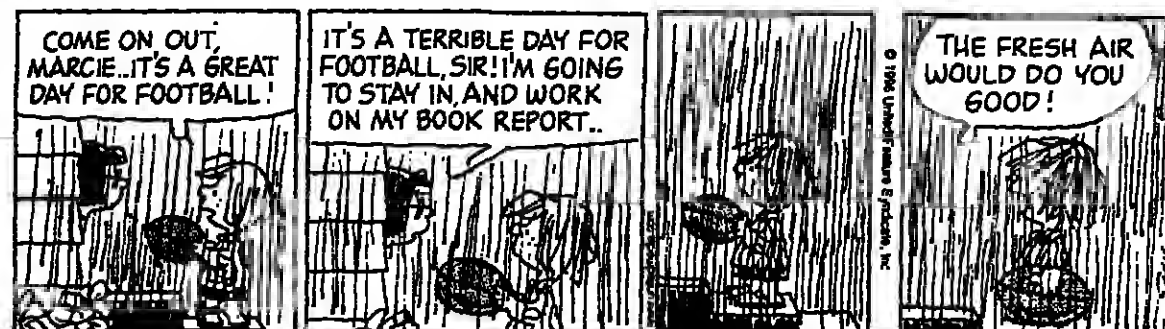


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- DOWN
- 1 Protagonist
 - 2 Anthem
 - 3 Epic showdown
 - 4 Low
 - 5 Schoolgirl coil
 - 6 Actor Benson
 - 7 "A Deal in the Family" author
 - 8 Contemplative one
 - 9 Third in rank
 - 10 Bishop's
 - 11 Operatic solo
 - 12 State of mind
 - 13 Henry's fourth
 - 14 Usher's province
 - 21 Burlap fiber
 - 24 Show backer
 - 25 Answer
 - 26 Roughen the surface of
 - 27 Dugout
 - 28 Fine china
 - 29 Fabian, at one time
 - 30 Loosen
 - 31 A Ford
 - 32 Heart hook-up
 - 34 Pul up
 - 36 Vagabond
 - 39 Exalts
 - 40 Malacca
 - 43 Astronomical unit
 - 44 Sun barrier
 - 45 Photo finish
 - 46 Turkish title
 - 47 Package

- 48 Fit
- 49 Ancient city near the Dead Sea
- 51 Teen woe
- 52 Watery part of milk
- 54 Bravo!
- 55 Bother

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your debts and income today and then make collections and pay your financial obligations wisely and efficiently. This evening you can proceed with some special career activities which need completion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Pamper yourself or purchase something new today to get your appearance improved for the busy weekend ahead. Later this evening you can meet with some knowledgeable person and discuss some career concerns.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many duties need your personal attention today, so plan your time well and handle them efficiently so that you can have great success. Later this evening will be good for meeting with close friends for some laughs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have better rapport with your friends and be more service to them. Be sure they are of fine character or you would be in the middle of some difficulty with some bigwig which will not be beneficial.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Any civic or credit affairs which need your personal handling should not be neglected today or you could find yourself in hot water. Later this evening will be good for consulting some bigwig and get his or her advice.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure you have first studied every item of some course of action today if you are going to gain the finest benefits from it. This evening you should spend some time with your loved ones and have fun together.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Before you get into that business outlet today, be sure to get the advice of an expert and be on the safe side. This evening can be fun for you and your loved ones if you take them some place where they can enjoy themselves.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may not agree with a higher-up about some career activities you have to do today, however, follow through without question and you can be successful by doing what you are instructed to do and you can gain prestige.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your career activities may seem tedious today, however, get them completed steadily and gain the benefits which accrue. This evening can be good for you and your mate if you spend some romantic time alone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make recreational plans for the days ahead and set up appointments for some fun activities for you and your loved ones. Clear your desk of lingering tasks so that when you are any excuses to have fun with your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more willing to do what your family expects of you today even if you prefer to pursue other matters which could take you from home for some time. This evening you should make the time to spend in some fun activities with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get busy keeping promises you have made today, even if it means much travelling about. Take it easy tonight with your loved one and have a peaceful time together and get ready for this busy weekend.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's

Qatar-Enron venture being

Qatar and U.S. Enron are close to completing a \$1 billion joint venture for a liquefied natural gas project in the Gulf state, a senior Enron official has said.

The venture is moving forward and we are ready to sign a preliminary document on a joint venture within the next few weeks, said Enron's senior vice president, Nasser Judeh.

The project is a joint venture between Enron and the state-owned Qatar Petroleum Co. (QGPC) holding stakes. Mr. Judeh said the project is a joint venture between Enron and the state-owned Qatar Petroleum Co. (QGPC) holding stakes. Mr. Judeh said the project is a joint venture between Enron and the state-owned Qatar Petroleum Co. (QGPC) holding stakes.

Authorities shut down 11 factories

Part of its inspection campaign, Jordan's Standards and Metrology Department has shut down 11 factories and plants which produce defective materials, for violating construction specifications. The inspectors found that the factories were producing defective materials, for violating construction specifications. The inspectors found that the factories were producing defective materials, for violating construction specifications.

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Qatar-Enron joint gas venture being finalised

DOHA (R) — Qatar and U.S. Enron Corp are close to concluding a \$4 billion joint venture agreement for a liquefied natural gas project in the Arab Gulf state, a senior Enron official has said.

"Everything is moving smoothly and we are readying the final joint venture document for signature within the next weeks," Nasser Jaidah, director of exploration and new ventures at the Qatar ministry of energy and industry, said. "It will be a 65-35 per cent joint venture," with the state's Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) holding the majority stake. Mr. Jaidah said.

A previous letter of intent signed by the QGPC and Enron in January 1995 had stipulated a 60-40 split. But the final draft of the agreement has changed the ratio and the U.S. company has reportedly concurred with it.

Mr. Jaidah told Reuters: "The project will go ahead and we are moving seriously in that direction."

"We don't care whether Israel buys (Qatari gas) or not," he said in reference to a reported decision by Israel to annul a right of exclusivity given to Enron to negotiate with Qatar for gas supplies for Israel.

Enron and Israel had signed a memorandum of understanding in October 1995 at an economic conference in Amman granting Enron 180 days to finalise an agreement with Qatar for the supply of at least two million tonnes a year of LNG from 2001.

The agreement, signed by the former Israeli energy minister Gonen Segev and Enron Development Corp chief executive Rebecca Mark, gave Enron exclusivity in negotiations with Qatar during the 180-day period. But an infrastructure ministry spokesman in Israel last month said that Israel had decided not to renew the agreement as no deal was reached with Qatar during the stipulated period.

ZURICH (R) — The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) has come up with new ideas to try to avert new banking crises in increasingly vulnerable emerging economies, economists have said.

The proposals in the latest BIS economic paper see economic stability, improved banking practices and higher bank capital among the conditions for preventing the recurrence of crises such as that which hit Mexico in 1994 — posing serious problems for financial markets well beyond Mexico's borders.

The options outlined in the paper are likely to be scrutinised by treasury and central bank officials from the Group of 10 (G-10) leading industrial nations, who will be reporting to the Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Denver next year.

In a review of recent studies, officials of the central bankers central bank find that the incidence of banking

BIS shows ways to avert emerging markets bank crises

crises in developing countries has been significantly higher in the 1980s and 1990s than in the 1970s, and much higher than in the tranquil 1950s and 1960s.

The Mexico crisis sparked fears among U.S. and IMF officials of problems spreading to other emerging markets and pushed the U.S. to put together a \$40 billion global rescue package.

Although the industrialised world has had its share of banking crises — such as Spain's crises from 1977-1985 and the U.S. savings and loans crises from 1984-1991 — the losses from crises in developing countries are more severe.

In more than a dozen cases, the cost of healing banking crises in the devel-

oping world has exceeded 10 per cent of a country's gross domestic product. In Argentina and Chile losses have been greater or equal to 25 per cent of GDP.

The BIS said urgent consideration must be given to ways in which international cooperation can encourage or sustain commitment to reform banking sectors in developing economies.

"Banking crises in emerging countries have multiple causes. The bad news is that there is therefore no single solution," the report said.

The good news is that there are several possible policy measures that can significantly reduce the incidence of each of these factors underlying banking crises," it added.

Ways to strengthen poli-

cal incentives to push ahead with reforms include pressure from regulators in countries where developing banks want to do business and from markets, punishing less regulated banks with higher costs of business.

The main factors recommended by the report are greater macroeconomic stability, a larger role for foreign-owned banks, a wider use of market-based hedging instruments and higher levels of bank capital.

Foreign-owned banks are often in a better position to weather shocks to the local economy because their portfolios are less concentrated in the host country and have access to external sources or liquidity.

Higher capital ratios could help compensate banks for a

more volatile environment, but also for accounting weaknesses and legal impediments to banks' recovery of delinquent loans.

"Banks in most emerging economies, given their relatively volatile environment, should probably hold more capital," the paper said.

Incentives to encourage banks to increase capital range from linking permitted activities to the level of capital or increase the personal liability of bank directors.

The paper also outlines the advantages of making many supervisory responses mandatory, helping offset the pressure on bank supervisors to delay corrective action in an environment of strong political pressure.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Authorities shut down 11 factories

** AS PART of its inspection campaign, the Jordanian Institution for Standardisation and Metrology has shut down eleven factories and plants which produce chemicals and construction materials, for violating the country's standard specifications. The institution's director general, Hassan Saudi, said the closure included four factories for paint and shampoo production and seven brick-manufacturing plants.

Mr. Saudi revealed that his institution has recently issued 58 warnings to various factories. Thirteen of those warnings were for projects producing chocolate, biscuit and potato chips. Other warnings were: 18 for chemical plants producing paint and cleaning products, 13 for plants manufacturing bricks and tiles, four textile projects and 10 clothing workshops.

The institution destroyed 1,808 cans of lubricating oils (brake and motor oil for vehicles) and 193 paper rolls for packaging food for alleged manipulation of expiry dates. In addition, 26 tonnes of imported convenience diapers were destroyed for not being in accordance with the standard specifications. Other products destroyed were 1,646 kilograms of various foodstuffs, 24 biscuit cartons and one chewing gum carton (Al Ra'i).

Jordan Television to become financially independent

** TELEVISION DIRECTOR Nasser Judeh has announced that the minister of finance approved in principle the financial independence of Jordan Television. Speaking at the Amman Rotary Club West, Mr. Judeh said according to this approval, Jordan Television would keep the revenues from marketing and commercial advertising as well as other services instead of forwarding it to the treasury.

As such, Mr. Judeh explained, JTV would finance its own expense rather than have the Ministry of Finance specify a budget, which, exceeds the volume of commercial revenue. He indicated that despite the approval, the government would provide in the first stage some form of financial support until JTV can improve its performance. Mr. Judeh pointed out that financial independence would enable Jordan Television to raise its commercial revenue noting that the commercial department was not set up on a competitive basis.

The television director revealed that the annual government allocation for Channel One was JD580,000 (Al Aswaj).

U.S. banking on M.E. business ties

(Continued from page 8)

"A regime was established in Casablanca and Amman and now there are business relationships that have been established and are being built upon," she argued.

But U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President Willard Workman was less sanguine.

"There's no question that a lot of people are concerned about the apparent breakdown in the peace process," he said.

"There are a lot of people who are looking not only at Israel but at Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt as potentially a very lucrative area for doing business — if we can get the peace process in place," he added. "But until that happens, there's not going to be a stampede of foreign investment in the region."

Added an Amman-based official on the economic development group at the multilateral peace negotiations: "From now on the approach is one of realism, far from the enthusiasm of past years."

At Amman, the talk was of major roads linking Egypt and Syria, huge tourism and infrastructure projects and billion-dollar deals.

Projects put forward by Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan alone were valued respectively at \$27 billion,

\$6 billion and \$3.5 billion. "Most of the time these projects were extremely difficult to put into practice," said the Amman official who asked to remain anonymous.

In the current climate of regional resentment and mistrust, the economic group — which pilots projects between Israel, the Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan — has lowered its sights and is concentrating on feasibility studies for projects more likely to see the light of day.

At the Cairo conference, the group will be putting forward small-scale proposals aimed at improving roads and crossing points between Israel and Jordan, the establishment of frontier industrial zones and tourism development.

One U.S. company headed for Cairo, the Texas-based natural gas developer Enron, is currently negotiating a \$4-billion project with Qatar that would take liquefied natural gas from the Gulf country's North Dome field to markets in Jordan and Israel.

Despite the recent stalemate in peace moves, insisted Enron spokeswoman Carol Hensley, "we've been continuing to negotiate on this project, in Qatar, Israel and Jordan. We have continued to maintain our focus on this project since it began in January 1995."

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|---------|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 10/11/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P/E | QTY. | NO. OF SHARES | NO. OF TRANSACTIONS | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE | PERCENT |
| 252.000 | 205.000 | ARAB BANK | 13.5 | 1.42 | 5 | 1020 | 251150 | 246.00 | 246.00 | - | - |
| 3.800 | 2.950 | BANK OF JORDAN | 10.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 1350 | 3383 | 2.95 | 2.95 | - | - |
| 2.700 | 3.120 | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 5.2 | 6.19 | 2 | 350 | 563 | 2.26 | 3.25 | .01 | .01 |
| 5.350 | 4.350 | THE HOUSING BK. | 13.1 | 2.82 | 2 | 1000 | 4855 | 4.90 | 4.90 | - | - |
| 1.200 | .850 | JOR. GULF BANK | 5.3 | 5.57 | 3 | 3250 | 3882 | .90 | .90 | - | - |
| 4.180 | 3.300 | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 17.9 | 0.00 | 14 | 1676 | 6249 | 3.73 | 3.73 | .01 | .01 |
| 3.930 | 1.400 | UNION BK. SAV. INV. | P | 0.00 | 4 | 82 | 121 | 1.53 | 1.50 | .03 | .03 |
| 3.350 | 3.000 | JOR. DEV. FIN. BANK | 17.3 | 0.00 | 4 | 1018 | 32592 | 3.20 | 3.20 | - | - |
| 5.850 | 4.450 | ARAB BANKING CO. | 23.3 | 0.00 | 9 | 5750 | 3662 | 4.50 | 4.50 | - | - |
| 1.600 | 1.000 | PHILADEL. INV. BK. | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 250 | 308 | 1.29 | 1.23 | .06 | .06 |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 188.68 | CHNG: -0.06 | 46 | 34839 | 328601 | | | | |
| 2.910 | 1.840 | JOR. FRANCE INSUR. | 5.4 | 10.42 | 1 | 400 | 768 | 1.92 | 1.92 | - | - |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 118.68 | CHNG: 0.00 | 1 | 400 | 768 | | | | |
| 1.900 | 1.450 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 11.0 | 7.59 | 2 | 1017 | 1606 | 1.58 | 1.58 | - | - |
| 9.250 | 8.310 | JOR. HOTEL TOURISM | 17.2 | 3.06 | 5 | 1581 | 15048 | 8.31 | 8.00 | .31 | .31 |
| 3.800 | 2.090 | SHIPPING LINES | 10.8 | 7.84 | 1 | 10000 | 25500 | 2.52 | 2.55 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.970 | 1.080 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 1500 | 1690 | 1.13 | 1.12 | .01 | .01 |
| 1.580 | .880 | REAL ESTATE INV. | 20.0 | 2.14 | 2 | 2000 | 1800 | .90 | .90 | - | - |
| 1.250 | .590 | JORDAN INTL. TRAD. | 31.8 | 0.00 | 8 | 3000 | 1863 | .61 | .62 | .01 | .01 |
| 2.300 | 1.610 | MED. PAST. HOTELS | 73.7 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 342 | 1.68 | 1.71 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.770 | .960 | JOR. EXPORTERS | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 1600 | 1685 | 1.06 | 1.06 | - | - |
| 2.430 | 1.700 | UNIFIED CO. | 9 | 5.68 | 3 | 1350 | 2310 | 1.73 | 1.70 | .03 | .03 |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 110.35 | CHNG: +0.10 | 36 | 23568 | 51933 | | | | |
| 3.770 | 3.060 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 18.9 | 3.03 | 12 | 4207 | 13855 | 3.30 | 3.30 | - | - |
| 3.950 | 2.710 | JOR. FERTILIZERS | 32.8 | 0.00 | 1 | 600 | 1830 | 3.05 | 3.05 | - | - |
| 5.960 | 4.780 | ARAB PHARM. CO. | 17.3 | 2.58 | 2 | 1000 | 362 | 5.62 | 5.62 | - | - |
| 10.550 | 8.720 | JOR. PETROL. REFINERY | 9.3 | 8.74 | 9 | 1361 | 12487 | 9.15 | 9.15 | - | - |
| 4.870 | 3.100 | ARAB PHARM. HAF. | 17.5 | 6.29 | 24 | 3861 | 12341 | 3.21 | 3.18 | .03 | .03 |
| 6.650 | 5.650 | JOR. CERAMIC IND. | 7.5 | 4.17 | 3 | 3250 | 19500 | 6.00 | 6.00 | - | - |
| 8.000 | 4.250 | JOR. ALUMIN. IND. INV. | 12.5 | 4.40 | 9 | 1284 | 4358 | 4.55 | 4.55 | - | - |
| .960 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 9 | 0.00 | 44 | 44650 | 24524 | .57 | .57 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.500 | 1.060 | ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD. | 7.9 | 8.93 | 1 | 150 | 174 | 1.16 | 1.16 | - | - |
| 1.090 | .570 | NATIONAL ENDS. | 8.1 | 10.91 | 12 | 5950 | 3303 | .90 | .90 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.640 | .940 | INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 240 | .97 | .97 | .04 | .04 |
| 1.350 | .770 | JOR. SULPHO-CHEM. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 820 | .78 | .82 | .04 | .04 |
| 1.080 | .920 | ARAB PHOSPH. CHEM. | 21.7 | 0.00 | 13 | 3600 | 4197 | 1.19 | 1.16 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.620 | 1.060 | KWATER INVEST. | 43.9 | 0.92 | 1 | 100 | 122 | 1.28 | 1.22 | .06 | .06 |
| 3.280 | 1.460 | UNIV. MOD. IND. | 4.5 | 13.61 | 10 | 2650 | 3884 | 1.46 | 1.47 | .01 | .01 |
| 2.100 | 1.140 | JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES | 17.3 | 0.00 | 12 | 4250 | 5813 | 1.36 | 1.38 | .02 | .02 |
| 1.580 | .890 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 24.2 | 0.00 | 12 | 7500 | 6876 | 1.88 | 1.88 | .03 | .03 |
| 2.460 | 1.750 | KL. "RAY READY WEAR" | P | 0.00 | 5 | 1008 | 2013 | 1.83 | 1.86 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.460 | 1.080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 25.6 | 0.00 | 4 | 5000 | 5450 | 1.08 | 1.09 | .01 | .01 |
| 1.990 | .980 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 23.6 | 0.00 | 3 | 7000 | 6820 | .99 | .96 | .03 | .03 |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 110.37 | CHNG: -0.02 | 181 | 97864 | 130533 | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | INDEX: 147.63 | CHNG: -0.03 | 264 | 145671 | 511834 | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 10/11/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .790 | .440 | CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE | 21.3 | 0.00 | 5 | 4250 | 2253 | .50 | .53 | .03 | .03 |
| .800 | .560 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 14.7 | 0.00 | 8 | 5350 | 2961 | .56 | .55 | .01 | .01 |
| .950 | .440 | NATL. CONCRETE CENTERS | 2 | 0.00 | 1 | 30 | 34 | .47 | .47 | - | - |
| .920 | .700 | UNION INV. SOI | 9 | 0.00 | 28 | 108450 | 22780 | .72 | .71 | .01 | .01 |
| 1.110 | .450 | ARAB YIN. INVEST. | 9 | 0.00 | 25 | 87350 | 41006 | .47 | .46 | .01 | .01 |
| .950 | .710 | AL-DHALLAT 75 | 16.0 | 0.00 | 8 | 12623 | 5807 | .71 | .71 | - | - |
| .640 | .430 | JOR. INDUS. MACH. JENCO | 8 | 0.00 | 3 | 1650 | 598 | .47 | .47 | .01 | .01 |
| 1.150 | .630 | UNIV. METALS | 8 | 0.00 | 3 | 900 | 576 | .63 | .64 | .01 | .01 |
| .870 | .510 | ARAB FOOD & MED. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 310 | .62 | .62 | - | - |
| .450 | .700 | ARAB INTL. INV. TRD. | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 2750 | 1410 | .54 | .51 | .03 | .03 |
| 1.000 | .520 | NATL. TRADING | 8 | 0.00 | 8 | 10300 | 6268 | .60 | .60 | - | - |
| 1.100 | .480 | NATL. MULT. ENG. MACHCO | 8 | 0.00 | 11 | 23600 | 11039 | .49 | .49 | - | - |
| 1.080 | .750 | JORDAN STEEL | 8 | 0.00 | 2 | 200 | 152 | .77 | .76 | .01 | .01 |
| .780 | .450 | INDS. CERAMIC | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 500 | 395 | .48 | .49 | .01 | .01 |
| .840 | .600 | RAZI PHARM. 65 | 2 | 0.00 | 2 | 400 | 102 | .60 | .60 | - | - |
| .830 | .420 | INDS. ENG. | 36.5 | 0.00 | 12 | 8700 | 3759 | .44 | .43 | .01 | .01 |
| 1.430 | .770 | INDS. CERAMIC | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 500 | 395 | .48 | .49 | .01 | .01 |
| .880 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | 2 | 0.00 | 1 | 1500 | 930 | .62 | .62 | - | - |
| .950 | .510 | ARAB INT. FOOD FACT. | 56.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 5000 | 4000 | .82 | .80 | .02 | .02 |
| 1.500 | .530 | HID. EAST COMPLEX | 8.0 | 0.00 | 8 | 2350 | 1598 | .68 | .68 | - | - |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | 136 | 275972 | 106237 | | | | | | |
| +: New 12 months low S: Stock dividend during the past 12 months N: Listed during the past 12 months P: P/E ratio is 100 or more -: Negative P/E E: Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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YOMSS
TOMELE
YUFEEL

Why can't I find the report?

WHY THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR COULDN'T GET HIS OLD COMPUTER TO WORK.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: TOO

(Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: Why the conductor won the achievement award - HE WAS WELL "TRAIN-ED"

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Holyfield stops Tyson to win WBA title in shock upset

LAS VEGAS (IR) — No one ever doubted Evander Holyfield's strong faith in God, but it was his belief in his right hand that so many people scoffed at.

After beating Mike Tyson Saturday in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history, Holyfield has certainly convinced everyone that his right hand is as solid as his faith in God.

And he may have made some people, as he said he hoped he could, believe in more than his right hand with his victory over one of the most feared fighters ever to win the World Boxing Association's heavyweight championship.

Holyfield was supposed to be a washed up fighter who was in danger of permanently injuring himself.

But the 34-year-old former two-time world heavyweight champion became only the second three-time champion, after Muhammad Ali, by raining nine unanswered punches to the head of a helpless Tyson to bring in referee Mitch Halpern to stop the fight at 37 seconds of the 11th round.

Over and over again Holyfield landed right hands to Tyson's head that seemed to confuse him, throwing his timing, and ultimately his senses, way off.

Holyfield charged right at Tyson from the opening bell, swarming over the 30-year-old Tyson to trade punches toe-to-toe.

It was a message Tyson, now 45-2, had been sent in only one other fight — against James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo in 1990 when Douglas staged the biggest upset in boxing history by knocking out the seemingly invincible Tyson in the 10th round.

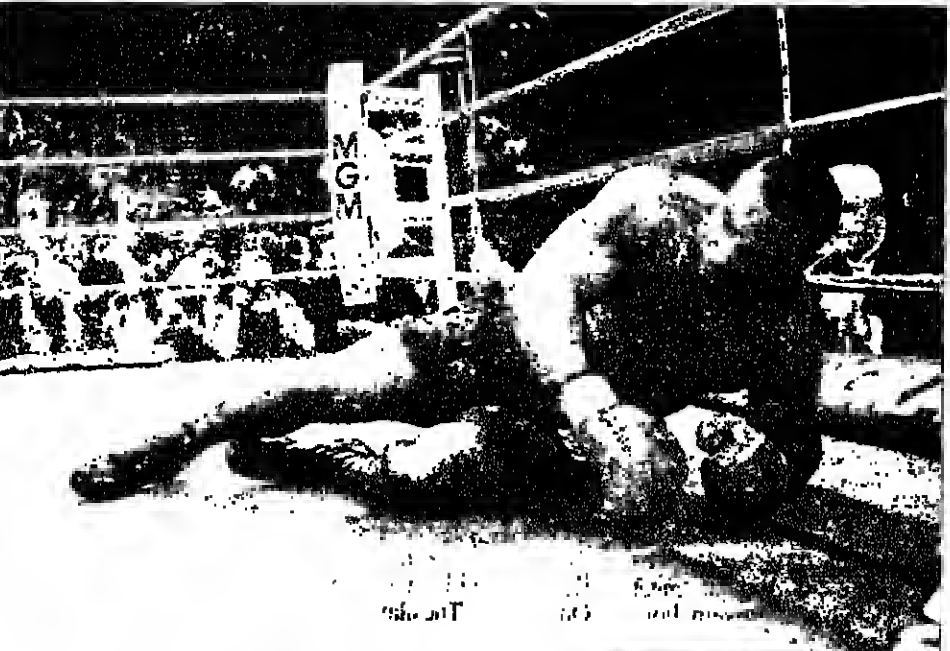
It was the strategy that Holyfield insisted he would follow for months, and so many people considered to be suicide against the power-punching Tyson.

Tyson seemed surprised by the tactic, and in the early going in the first round was missing with his hard overhand rights, while Holyfield countered with combinations.

Holyfield kept landing his punches first, and toward the end of the second round the 30-year-old Tyson was slowing down



Challenger Evander Holyfield raises his finger as he celebrates his number one status following his 11th round TKO win over Mike Tyson in their WBA Heavyweight Championship fight at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas. In one of the biggest upsets in boxing history, Evander Holyfield pummeled Mike Tyson helpless with nine unanswered punches in the 11th round to win the World Boxing Association's heavyweight title (Reuters photo)



Mike Tyson lays on the mat after being knock down by challenger Evander Holyfield, during 6th round action in their WBA heavyweight championship bout (Reuters photo)

and holding, reminiscent of hapless Briton Frank Bruno, whom Tyson easily defeated last March.

Just before the bell ended the second round, Holyfield landed a right-left-right combination that staggered Tyson against the ropes in a precursor of what was to happen often in the fight and at the end.

Holyfield caught Tyson

with a short left to the head in the sixth round, sending Tyson down onto the seat of his black trunks to a tremendous roar from a capacity crowd of 16,325, which at the end of the round was chanting and stomping feet for Holyfield.

Tyson got up quickly and the two traded hard punches. But at the end of the round it was Holyfield again with a left-right-left-right combination that sent Tyson into the ropes.

Holyfield was warned for holding in the seventh round and later in the round Tyson complained to the referee that Holyfield had worked his glove into a cut that had opened up under Tyson's left eye. Then Tyson ran into Holyfield's head with his own, and again Tyson looked imploringly at the ref.

Tyson appeared ready to be knocked out in the 10th round after Holyfield stopped a very hard jab and soon afterward landed a hard right-left-right-right that pounded him into the ropes.

When the bell rang for the 11th round, Tyson seemed dazed, standing in front of his corner with his hands down at his sides.

"I didn't know where I was at," Tyson said after the fight. "I didn't know anything."

Tyson added, "I don't even remember going down. I don't even remember the fight."

Holyfield, now 33-3,

waded in again and Tyson's legs appeared wobbly. Holyfield landed nine unanswered punches to Tyson's head, finishing the execution with a huge overhand right that knocked Tyson into the ropes senseless.

"I give all my glory to God. With God on your side you can do the things you choose to do," said Holyfield.

Holyfield, who was paid \$11 million, said he would go home to Atlanta and rest, and think about whether he wants to fight again.

For Tyson, who received \$30 million for the bout, fighting again is a no-brainer: "I get so much money to fight, man, how can I not continue to fight."

From an acrimonious and very distasteful promotion with Tyson promising to hurt Holyfield and Tyson's camp constantly belittling the challenger, the post-fight news conference was all sweetness and light.

Everyone praised every-

Holyfield thanked Tyson for the opportunity to fight him and, of course, thanked God many times more.

Tyson was particularly gracious, saying to Holyfield, "man, I just want to shake your hand. It's been so long, I just want to touch you."

"He fought a tremendous fight. Thank you. I have the greatest respect for you. By the will of God, I hope we can do it again."

Giggs boost for United

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Ryan Giggs provided some much-needed good news for Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson with a successful return to action in the reserves on Saturday.

The Welsh International showed no ill effects from the calf injury which has sidelined him for the past month during which United have suffered traumatic setbacks to their hopes of Premiership and European glory.

Giggs, who set up the first two goals in United reserves 4-0 triumph at Nottingham Forest, now seems likely to play for the first team in their forthcoming games against title rivals Arsenal and Italian Giants Juventus. The afternoon was also memorable for Norwegian triathlete Eric Neuland who struck a hat-trick against Forest.

Rough ride for the Tour of Italy

MILAN (AFP) — Next year's winner of the 80th tour of Italy will need to be a strong climber, after the organisers on Saturday unveiled three weeks of hell between Venice and Milan.

The race, which starts in Venice on May 17 and finishes 3,885 kms later here in Sempione Park on June 8, is tailor-made for a triumphant return for Italian climbing hero Marco Pantani.

The figure of eight route winds through the length and breadth of Italy, starting with an opening stage around the Venice Lido. The first of two time trials, lasting just 18 kms, follows on stage three and includes a hill climb finish to San Marino.

As the route winds south, stage five sees the first steep climb up to Terminillo (1,775 mts) before pressing on via Lanciano by the Adriatic to Modragone on the Mediterranean.

After 10th stage along the boot of Italy, the Peloton has a rest day spent transferring to Lido Di Camaiore on the northwest coast.

A short dash along the Italian Riviera follows and then it's northwards into the Alps for a series of mountain stages at Varazze (Monte Beigua Pass, 1,287 mts) and Cervinia (Col De Champremiere, 1,260 mts) and St. Antonino (1,645 mts).

The 18th stage hosts the second time trial, a 39 km dash to Cavalese, but woe betide any rider who gives himself totally to victo-

ry. No fewer than seven mountain climbs await him the following day, including the 2,239 mt Coppi summit, named after the legendary Italian rider, and a further five climbs over the following two days.

Deliverance arrives in the last stage, a sedate 165 km run to Milan.

Miguel Indurain, the five-times Tour De France winner, acknowledged it would be a tough race — were he to take part.

"It's a hard giro," the Spaniard said in an interview broadcast at the presentation here.

"It's going to be hard at the beginning with the time trial and anyone who gives it too much at the start is not going to see the race through to the end."

The Spaniard has not decided yet whether he will race the 80th giro.

Pantani, the star of the ceremony here, said of the route: "I like it."

"It's one of the best of the last few years and I would really like to do well on it."

However, the man nicknamed "the Little Elephant" for his shaved head and protruding ears, is not guaranteed to be at the starting line.

Still recovering from a traffic accident during the Milan-Turin race a year ago, he said: "I feel good. I've done about a dozen races since August and the training is going well. But I'll have to see closer to the time if my condition is good enough to race the giro."

Kafelnikov, Ivanisevic book final date in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — Top seeds Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Goran Ivanisevic won their semifinal matches in straight sets here Saturday in the \$1.15 million Kremlin Cup to set up a much-anticipated final showdown.

Russia's Kafelnikov, who moved to No. 3 in the world following his fine showing in Paris last week, overcame David Prinosil of Germany 7-6, 6-4 to the delight of a near sell-out crowd at Moscow's Olympic sports complex.

Hard-hitting Croatian Ivanisevic, serving 21 aces, eliminated Alex O'Brien of the United States 6-4, 7-6.

After battling the top seed for almost an hour in the opening set, Prinosil double-faulted at key point in the tiebreaker to lose 7-9. Kafelnikov then broke the German in the ninth game of the

second set for a 5-4 lead and served for the match.

Ivanisevic won the first set with a trademark ace, and proceeded to give O'Brien little chance in the tiebreaker, blasting down yet another ace with his second serve.

"I feel good when I hit an ace," said Ivanisevic, ranked 4th in the world.

Kafelnikov, from the Black Sea town of Sochi, has a dismal 2-6 head-to-head record against Ivanisevic and said he is not looking forward to the final.

"He has been a difficult opponent for me since we first met."

When he hits 20-30 aces, it's almost like going into the match one set down.



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, sporting a new hairstyle, returns a shot during his Kremlin Cup match (Reuters photo)

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Sameh Madani Managing Director



A cornerman works on the cut left eye of Mike Tyson between rounds of his WBA heavyweight championship fight against Evander Holyfield (Reuters photo)

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Albanian Viktor Paco (C) tries to overpass the Armenian players Sargis Hovsepian (L), the stretched Aramais Tonoyan (R) and Hamlet Mkhitarjan (R above). Albania and Armenia drew 1-1 in a World Cup European Group 9 qualifier in Tirana (Reuters photo)

World Cup qualifiers Irish hold Germans as England go clear

PARIS (AFP) — Northern Ireland gave Germany a run for their money as they battled their way to a deserved 1-1 draw in Nuremberg in a European group nine World Cup qualifier Saturday to preserve a proud record against the European champions.

Bryan Hamilton's men withstood intense German pressure before grabbing a shock lead on 38 minutes when Bolton defender Taggart blasted in a half-volley following a poor clearance from Thomas Strunz.

Dortmund midfielder Andreas Moller replied with an equaliser just two minutes later to save German blushes.

The Irish, who had opened their World Cup campaign with a 1-0 home defeat by Ukraine and an equally disappointing 2-1 away draw with Armenia, like meo possessed preserve their remarkable record against one of the superpowers of world football.

Wales endured a nightmare evening in Eindhoven in Group Seven as they were humiliated 7-1 by Holland, for whom Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp blasted a hat-trick.

The thrashing was one of the worst in Welsh history and their heaviest beating since a 5-0 crushing by Georgia two years ago in a Euro 96 qualifier.

Their worst ever loss was a 9-0 drubbing by Scotland in Glasgow in 1878.

Bergkamp opened the scoring on 22 minutes and further first-half efforts followed from Ronald De Boer, Wim Jonk and Frank De Boer to underline the gulf between the two sides.

Dean Saunders hit a 40th minute consolation for Bobby Gould's dispirited band, who have now been outclassed twice by the lively Dutch.

Everton veteran goalkeeper Neville Southall saved his team from a rugby score, coming to the rescue of his hapless defence time and time again.

After the break, Cocu made it 5-1 in the 61st minute before Bergkamp piled on the misery with further goals in the 73rd and 79th minutes.

In the same group, Austria conceded a 73rd-minute goal from classy Werder Bremen midfielder Andreas Herzog to edge out Latvia 2-1.

Macedonia meanwhile ran up the biggest score of the day and the fourth biggest in the tournament's history, as they blitzed hapless Liechtenstein 11-1 away in Group 8.

Elsewhere in Europe, Albania and Armenia parted 1-1 in the same group as Germany and Northern Ireland.

Egypt and Morocco start with a bang

Egypt and Morocco went on scoring sprees while Nigeria and South Africa disappointed in World Cup



Wales national team coach Bobby Gould reacts during his World Cup qualifying match against Holland in Eindhoven. Wales lost their match with 7-1 (Reuters photo)

action this weekend.

The Egyptians crushed Namibia 7-1 and Morocco outclassed Sierra Leone 4-0, but Nigeria took 86 minutes to seal a 2-0 win over Burkina Faso and South Africa battled to defeat Zaire 1-0.

Fans jammed the streets of Cairo with their cars, waving flags and honking horns, after Egypt became the first country to score seven goals in an all-African tie.

Several decades before organised football began on the continent, the Pharaohs struck seven past Asian representatives Palestine in a qualifier for the 1934 World Cup.

Ali Maher was the chief tormentor of Namibia, scoring in the opening minute and going on to complete a hat-trick while veteran Hossam Hassan struck two late goals.

Morocco netted three times within eight minutes soon after half-time to complete a 4-0 rout of Sierra Leone, who were drafted in last week after Burundi withdrew due to economic sanctions.

Nigeria fielded nine of

the Olympic-winning team against lowly Burkina Faso with Finidi George and Rashidi Yekini replacing Tijani Babangida and Nwankwo Kanu, who has a heart problem.

The expected goal avalanche never materialised and the capacity 60,000 crowd at the Surulere stadium in Lagos had to wait 46 minutes before George created the first goal for Daniel Amokachi.

Jonathan Akpoborie, a consistent scorer in Germany, and 1994 African footballer of the year Emmanuel Amunike were brought on to bolster the Super Eagles attack.

But the Burkina, who conceded seven goals on their previous visit to Nigeria five years ago, soaked up the pressure until four minutes from full-time when Amokachi struck again.

African champions South Africa looked lethargic as they battled to overcome a Zairean team which arrived in Johannesburg less than four hours before the kickoff.

Italian-based forward Philemon Masinga snatched the winner after 72 minutes,

Hingis to face Seles in Oakland final

OAKLAND (R) — Precocious Martina Hingis arranged her first on-court meeting with former teen queuo Mooica Seles by beating big-serving Brenda Schultz-McCarthy to reach the finals of the Bank of the West Classic.

The third-seeded Swiss teenager beat fifth seed Schultz-McCarthy 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 to set up a showdown against Seles, a 6-3 6-3 winner over Romanian Irina Spirlea in Saturday's earlier semifinal.

"I've never played Martina and I'm excited to play her," co-world number two Seles said. "She has a beautiful style, reads shots very well and moves well on both sides."

Hingis, 16, who will be ranked a career best number six on Monday, is making her eighth appearance in a final this year.

"I'm very excited to play her," said Hingis, who has one tournament title to her credit. "Every time before we got close, but I would lose or she would lose. When I was little she was my idol, so I'm happy to play her."

Seles, 22, had an easier time Saturday, setting the tone by winning the first two games at love. She capped the first set by

breaking Spirlea at love again.

"I had a very big percentage of first serves," said Seles, who poured in 75 percent of her first serves. "I knew I had to do that because she's a good returner."

In the second set, Seles stormed out to a 3-0 and over faced a break point on her way to victory.

"She served well and hit almost everything," said Spirlea, ranked 15th in the world. "When she won eight points in a row, I was thinking, oh my God."

Hingis looked tentative in the first set, dropping her serve in the opening game. But Hingis was able to return Schultz-McCarthy's sizzling serves well. Though she had 10 aces, Schultz-McCarthy also had nine double faults and 32 unforced errors.

The Dutchwoman believes Hingis has a good chance against Seles.

"Martina has a very intelligent game," Schultz-McCarthy said. "She sees the court very well. Monica hits the ball really hard. If (Martina) can keep pace with Monica, she'll do okay."

Premier League teams begin 11th week today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Soccer action returns to the Kingdom's stadiums Monday with the start of the 11th week of the Premier League championship.

As the second round of the championship resumed last week Al Faisali remained atop the standings after their 2-0 win over Al Ahli. Al Wihdat are only one point behind after another 2-0 of their own over Al Jazireh.

Al Ramtha moved up to third with their 2-1 win over Shabab Al Hussein while Al Ahli dropped to fifth.

Al Hussein remained fourth after their 2-2 draw with Kufroum while Al Qadissieh and Al Qozazi also maintained their standings after a 1-1

Schedule of matches (all matches start at 2:30 p.m.)
Wihdat - S. Al Hussein Mon. Amman
Qadissieh - Ramtha Tue. Amman
Faisali - Jazireh Wed. Amman
Kufroum - Ahli Fri. Irbid
Hussein - Qozazi Fri. Mafrq

Standings before 11th round

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Faisali | 10 | 6 | 4 | - | 18 | 6 | 22 |
| Wihdat | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 21 |
| Ramtha | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 8 | 18 |
| Hussein | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 17 |
| Ahli | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 13 | 16 |
| Qadissieh | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 15 | 15 | 12 |
| S. Hussein | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 10 |
| Jazireh | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 6 |
| Kufroum | 10 | - | 5 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 5 |
| Qozazi | 10 | - | 3 | 7 | 7 | 22 | 3 |

draw. As the 11th week opens today, Al Wihdat meet Shabab Al Hussein hoping to score a win and top the standings.

Nearly all top teams might find a very good chance to improve their

record as they meet relatively easy opponents. Al Ramtha will meet Al Qadissieh Tuesday, Al Faisali will play Al Jazireh Wednesday, Ahli will play Kufroum and Al Hussein meet Al Qozazi Friday.

NBA RESULTS

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------------|----------|
| Milwaukee | 100 | Charlotte | 98 |
| Indiana | 103 | Washington | 100 (OT) |
| Philadelphia | 112 | Phoenix | 95 |
| Chicago | 104 | Boston | 92 |
| Miami | 91 | Dallas | 84 |
| Houston | 91 | Utah | 85 |
| Sacramento | 103 | Portland | 102 |

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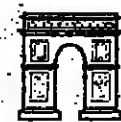
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An Israeli soldier takes aim with a rifle fitted with a canister of rubber bullets as a Palestinian gestures toward other Palestinians to stop their land demonstration Sunday (Reuters photo)

Israeli police start rounding up Jewish extremists

HEBRON (Agencies) — Police arrested a Jewish extremist in Hebron on Sunday as part of an effort to prevent a violent response to an expected Israeli redeployment in the West Bank city.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told Israel radio that the measure was necessary so that the changeover in Hebron "will be peaceful."

The Israeli newspaper Maariv said Israel plans to pull out of Hebron, the only West Bank city still under Israeli occupation, between Nov. 20 and 22.

Noam Federman, a leader of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach Movement, was put under administrative detention, which allows police to hold a person for up to six months without being charged.

Over the past three years, Mr. Federman has spent 14 months in administrative detention, once after Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein shot and killed 29 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque in 1993 and a second time after the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

In addition to Mr. Federman, a police official said two other Israelis were picked up Sunday, one in the Tel Aviv district and one in the Haifa area. But their identities were not revealed, and it was not clear if they remained in custody as

PLO police lead funeral of Palestinian man

NILIN, West Bank (R) — PLO police carried the body of a Palestinian man killed by Israeli soldiers on Sunday to his village, saluted him and laid him to rest.

Israeli troops shot dead Atallah Amireh, 36, and wounded 11 other Palestinians on Sunday as they protested against land confiscations, witnesses and medical officials said. The incident occurred in Deir Kidis village near Ramallah where Palestinians say Israel confiscated 1,250 acres of Arab land for Jewish settlements.

Palestinian policemen performed a military funeral for Amireh at Nidin village near Ramallah.

Witnesses said Sunday's violence erupted when Israeli soldiers fired live bullets at some 200 Palestinians from four villages who were heading for a protest on the confiscated land.

Israeli army spokesman said the incident was under investigation.

Around 250 Palestinian mourners marched through Ramallah to a cemetery in Nilin village for Mr. Amireh's funeral.

Police initially indicated.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police had arrest warrants for a few dozen Jewish extremists.

Travel restrictions have previously been imposed on six Jewish extremists, including Baruch Marzel, the head of the Kach Movement and a Hebron resident.

Mr. Marzel predicted there would be violence after Israel's redeployment.

"The question is who will succeed in preventing, immediately afterwards, the confrontation between the

two populations. I am convinced that there will be violence," he told the Associated Press.

He also said widespread arrests of Jewish militants could backfire.

Meanwhile, the historic Jewish families of Hebron called Sunday for the removal of its "extremist" Jewish settlers and a return to the era when Jews and Arabs lived in peace in the volatile West Bank city.

A delegation of descendants from Hebron's original Jewish community, which lived in the city for centuries until the early 1900s, made

the call during a symbolic visit to meet Hebron's Palestinian mayor Mustapha Natshe.

"The settlers do not have the right to speak for the Jews in Hebron or to use their properties in the city," a joint statement by the families said.

"The Jews may live here under a peace accord reached with the Palestinians, but not as the settlers do, with weapons and threats," it said.

Mr. Natshe told the gathering that Palestinians "welcome the original Jews who had property here in Hebron and call on them to return to the city to live in peace as we did for centuries."

The delegation, representing the largest eight of Hebron's old Jewish families, accused the settlers of "stealing" their property in the city.

The settlers "are strangers who took our homes and have no right to use them. They must leave immediately," said Yosef Ben Yehuda Ezra, who lived in the city until the 1940s and whose family was in Hebron for 450 years.

Mr. Natshe called on "both Palestinians and Jews to have the right to get back property taken from them," the delegation refused to comment on the sensitive issue of the right of Palestinian refugees to return to homes inside Israel.

Prince Hassan: Security cannot be achieved without peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said that security in the Middle East cannot be achieved before the attainment of peace, urging concerted efforts to maintain human dignity through focusing on peace, security and development.

In an address to participants at a seminar on the Arab perspective on the peace process held at the periphery of a conference by the International Press Institute (IPI) which ended in Amman Saturday, Prince Hassan pointed to the negative impact the region's focus on military security at the expense of humanitarian and social security has had on the development process in the Middle East.

Prince Hassan said that he brought up this issue in his recent talks with General Paul Klein, director of the Transition Department, in

Eastern Slavonia. Since the Gulf war in 1990, Prince Hassan said, countries in the area have spent \$200 billion on armament while the development of the infrastructure of the region extending from Morocco to Turkey would cost \$35 billion.

The Crown Prince said the Middle East has yet to institutionalise mechanisms for economic cooperation, noting the expectations and aspirations from the Working Group on Regional Economic Cooperation have not materialised.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the regional bank, which the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Amman last year agreed to set up, will be established and will achieve its goals.

Emphasising that Islam has nothing to do with vio-

lence, Prince Hassan told participants at the IPI seminar that he has, through some friendly countries, made a proposal to work against Islamophobia in the same way the world is working against anti-Semitism, expressing hope the proposal will be endorsed by the International Parliamentary Union in its coming meeting.

Prince Hassan spoke of the progress the interfaith dialogue has made, hoping that the success of this endeavour will be matched in efforts to increase cooperation among countries of the Middle East.

Prince Hassan pointed to the lack of an efficient archiving system on Jerusalem, stressing that a Dynamic Archival System (DAS) would provide a necessary knowledge base of the Holy City.

Russia backs quick start to Iraq oil-for-food deal

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov supported Baghdad's calls for a quick start to its delayed oil-for-food programme at talks on Sunday with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

Iraq is seeking U.N. permission to start the oil-for-food deal, which would allow it to sell \$2 billion of oil in exchange for sorely needed medicines and food.

Other oil sales are barred under U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad after the Gulf war.

Iraq also wants the sanctions lifted but has to wait for the report of a United Nations commission confirming it has fulfilled demands to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Russia underlined the need to fulfill all the U.N. Security Council resolutions but also that without delay Iraq would have permission to carry out its intentions to export oil and to fulfill its needs," Mr. Primakov told a news conference.

He said it was "vitally necessary" to start the oil-for-food deal.

Russia has called for sanctions to be lifted as soon as possible in contrast to the harsher U.S. stance. Mr. Primakov, a Middle East expert, said he had useful talks with Mr. Aziz and referred to him as his "old comrade."

Russia has an interest in sanctions being lifted because this would help Iraq repay billions of dollars in debts to Moscow, Mr. Aziz said Iraq was

prepared to fulfill all U.N. resolutions and that it was the United States which was holding up the oil-for-food deal and the lifting of sanctions.

The deal was nearing completion but was halted when Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein sent troops into northern Iraq to fight on one side of an inter-Kurdish fight.

"Iraq wants as quickly as possible to fulfill the resolutions as this is in the interests of the Iraqi population," Mr. Aziz added.

Mr. Primakov said it was difficult to say when the sanctions against Iraq would be lifted but that only disarmament should be taken into account when allowing Iraq to resume oil sales.

Iraq is worried that the United States might push for the U.N. to set other conditions than just the weapons issue before Baghdad is allowed to resume oil exports.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq would continue to work with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), which is monitoring the weapons destruction, and called for it to give its final report soon.

Mr. Aziz is on a visit to Moscow which diplomats in Baghdad said was part of Iraq's efforts to rally support for an early end to the six-year-old U.N. trade sanctions.

Iraq accuses Turkey of killing Kurds

Iraq on Sunday accused Turkish troops of murdering 46 Iraqi Kurds by shooting them in the back after

they had taken refuge in Turkey.

The official Al Qadisiyah newspaper said 46 bodies were sent to the northern Iraqi town of Sulaimaniyah in recent days were the "victims of Turkish military operations in northern Iraq."

"These men who fled the hell of Jalal Talabani's group," the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) which controls the city of Sulaimaniyah near Iran, "tried to travel to Turkey through Iran," it said.

"The Turkish authorities arrested them and held them for four months before releasing them and bringing them back to the Iraqi border," Al Qadisiyah said, adding that the events took place around four months ago.

The daily said these men were "shot in the back by Turkish soldiers in order to get bonuses promised to soldiers who kill members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), the Turkish Kurd separatist group."

It did not say if they were gunned down on the border or inside northern Iraq.

Ankara said 35 PKK rebels were killed and 45 others wounded during a Turkish army operation on Friday in northern Iraq. The Turkish army frequently carries out such attacks in a bid to prevent the PKK using the area as a launching pad.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which controls much of Iraqi Kurdistan, has urged Ankara to stop its "aggression" against Kurds in northern Iraq.

U.S. using non-lethal military aid to target Sudan — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States is giving non-lethal military aid to nations surrounding Sudan in an effort to put pressure on the Islamic regime there, according to a report Sunday.

The Washington Post, citing administration and congressional officials, said nearly \$20 million in surplus U.S. military equipment will be sent to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda.

The paper reported that the three countries support Sudanese opposition groups preparing a joint offensive to overthrow the government in Khartoum.

The officials said the military aid is non-lethal and defensive, including items such as radios, uniforms, boots and tents.

The paper reported, however, that congressional and Pentagon sources said the aid could be increased to include rifles and other weapons.

The post reported that administration officials said the White House has issued

no formal presidential directive detailing a new strategy toward Sudan, but top administration officials met several times over the last year to discuss policy toward Sudan's rulers.

The officials made "a very deliberate policy decision" to take a tougher line, one unnamed senior administration official said.

"Our policy is to isolate, pressure and contain Sudan and to compel it to modify its behaviour," said one senior administration official. "We do not have an active policy of trying to overthrow the government of Sudan," the source added.

ICRC discusses release of air crew

Meanwhile, an International Red Cross official held talks Saturday in Khartoum in a bid to secure the release of three aircrew and five Sudanese seized by a pro-government armed faction in southern Sudan a week

ago.

Paul Grossier, deputy director of operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), held talks with Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, a statement from the ministry said.

The plane, seized on Nov. 1, was carrying five "Sudanese patients" who had just left the ICRC hospital at Lukhokio in northern Kenya, an ICRC statement issued in Khartoum said.

The three foreign nationals are Canadian pilot John Early, co-pilot Kenyan Moshin Raza and Australian nurse Mary Worthington.

The ICRC rejected allegations that the plane was carrying arms and said it was on an "authorised flight to Woon-Rok" near Oqrial, about 400 kilometres north of the border.

Ciller begins official visit today

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller is expected here today for a two-day visit postponed since September.

An official from the Turkish embassy in Amman said that the basic aim of the visit is to boost bilateral ties between Jordan and Turkey. The official would not disclose details of Ms. Ciller's planned talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. But it is widely believed that Ms. Ciller will discuss regional water issues, the on-going Kurdish problem and the continuing U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq as well as the delayed oil-for-food deal.

"They will be dealing with all issues, but I can't specify what they will be," the official said.

Jordan expects that Turkey will play an important role in regional water-sharing issues, now being discussed in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. Turkey has an abundant supply of water and has offered to export it to Arab countries as well as Israel, but given Syria's boycott of the multilateral talks, the issue has not made much headway.

An official source told the Jordan Times that talks with Ms. Ciller could address negotiations between Jordan and NATO over granting the Kingdom non-NATO ally status. Jordan's inclusion in this elite club of nations would give it access to American hi-tech and will allow the prepositioning of U.S. military equipment here.

Ms. Ciller's predecessor Emre Gonenay was scheduled to visit Jordan in June, when Ms. Ciller reigned as Turkish prime minister. However, a change in government postponed the visit.

Following her appointment as foreign minister in Turkey's current Islamic-led government, Ms. Ciller was also scheduled to pay a visit to Amman in September. But the visit was again delayed because of Kurdish fighting in northern Iraq.

At that time, Arab countries, including Jordan, severely criticised a Turkish plan to set up a "buffer zone" in Iraqi territory to prevent fighters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) from staging attacks against the country in their struggle to secede from Turkey's sovereignty.

Turkey later assured Jordan that it would continue to respect Iraq's sovereignty in its northern territories and that it had no plans to establish any military bases there.

Gangland bomb blast kills 11 in Moscow cemetery

MOSCOW (AFP) — A bomb exploded in a Moscow cemetery early Sunday, killing at least 11 and seriously wounding 11 others during a ceremony for veterans of the war in Afghanistan, in what police said appeared to be a gangland settling of scores.

The president of the Russian Foundation of Afghan War Veterans and his wife were among those killed by the blast at the Kotliakovsky cemetery in southern Moscow.

Police who arrived on the scene said 11 people were killed and 11 wounded were rushed to hospital after the blast.

Colonel Svyatoslav Zhorin, chief investigator of the Federal Security Service (FSB), named the foundation's president as Sergei Trakhtinov, and said rival branches of the organisation had been in dispute for at least two years.

Russian ORT Television showed pictures of bodies dismembered by the blast, which ripped through the cemetery at 12:30 p.m. (0930 GMT), leaving a crater 3.7 metres wide and more than a metre deep.

Police said the bomb consisted of two or three kilograms of TNT.

The memorial service, attended by 120 people,

was organised to honour the foundation's previous president, Mikhail Likhodei, who was gunned down two years ago outside his apartment building.

Moscow Echo radio reported that Mr. Trakhtinov had replaced Mr. Likhodei on April 10, 1995.

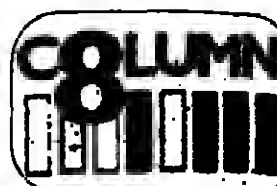
Valery Radchikov, president of the rival branch, was seriously wounded in a recent assassination attempt.

The nationwide foundation was established in May 1991, to provide support and help find jobs for veterans wounded in the 1979-1989 Soviet war in Afghanistan.

Russian war veterans' associations generally enjoy tax-free privileges for imports and exports — a benefit that often leads to lucrative business deals and bloody score-settling for control of the profits.

Security officials quoted by Interfax news agency said that after Sunday's bombing police teams were rushed to churches where other memorial services for Mr. Likhodei were planned, to check them for bombs.

Police feared a bomb may have been planted in the Cathedral of the Epiphany in central Moscow, the sources said.



British pop 'bad boy' Gallagher in drugs probe

LONDON (R) — Oasis lead singer Liam Gallagher, known as the bad boy of British pop, was arrested in London on suspicion of possessing cocaine. Police said Gallagher was stopped early in the morning in London's Oxford Street shopping district and taken to a nearby police station. He was not formally charged, but a substance was taken away for analysis and the 24-year-old Gallagher was ordered to report back to police Dec. 30.

Greek Rural Postmen win Odd Book Title Award

LONDON (R) — The British Booksellers' Odd Title Award has gone this year to "The Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellations." It fought off some tough competition from "God's Chewable Vitamin C For The Spirit" and "Tractors And The Men Who Love Them." "We feel this year's winner will be of lasting worth," Horace Brent, chairman of the judges, told the London Times after sifting through the obscure award. Previous winners have ranged from "Oral Sadism and the Vegetarian Personality" to "Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice."

Poverty on the increase in London

LONDON (AFP) — Poverty has increased in the British capital over the last 10 years and the gap between rich and poor is growing, according to a study published Thursday. In 1994 one Londoner in six was receiving social security payments because they were unemployed or on a very low income, compared with one in 10 five years earlier, says the report from the London Research Centre. More than 1.5 million people — including partners and children of the unemployed or low earners — were reliant on social security benefits in 1994, the study added. Although still the wealthiest city in England, London is host to 14 of the country's 20 most deprived electoral wards. The growing divide between the most and least deprived wards is highlighted by mortality. Observed deaths below age 75 in 1991 were 25 per cent higher than expected in the most deprived wards given their population characteristics, the study said, while in the least deprived wards they were 20 per cent less than expected.

Western fast food bites into traditional Chinese fare

HONG KONG (AP) — Chow Mein is feeling the heat from burgers and fries. Western fast-food restaurants are cutting deep into Hong Kong's appetite for traditional Chinese fare, according to an analysis by Hang Seng Bank Ltd. Of restaurant sales since 1989 to 1994, The gainers were the fast-food chains, while the main loser was the traditional Chinese restaurant. "Traditional Chinese restaurants have suffered a severe downturn," Chinese restaurants numbered 4,591 in 1994, a drop of 13 per cent from that year alone, and revenues fell by an average of 4.1 per cent a year during the period surveyed, said the report issued Thursday. It gave no figures for western-style fast-food restaurants. But McDonald's, for instance, has 116, compared with 54 in 1991. The report said the decline of the Chinese restaurant could be due to price competition, wage rises and inflation, and high rents for premises, the typical Chinese eatery being cavernous compared with a fast-food outlet. Another reason cited is the shift of Hong Kong industry across the border, meaning fewer manufacturers giving lavish banquets for staff and customers.

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